



# KENT ON SUNDAY

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No.372

November 8, 2009

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# CHANCE TO REPAY OUR WAR HEROES

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

ORGANISERS at the Poppy Appeal's headquarters are confident the recession won't stop public donations from reaching a seventh consecutive record-breaking total.

Last year just under £31 million was raised for the Royal British Legion's welfare fund – including more than £1m from Kent – and early indications are that this year's appeal will top that figure.

Money raised from the sale of poppies helps support current and former servicemen and women and their families, with the ongoing conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq bringing the issue ever closer to home.

All will be remembered at services throughout the county today, which will be marked as usual with a two-minute silence at 11am and the laying of wreaths at war memorials in towns and villages.

For the last few weeks staff at the Poppy Appeal's national HQ in Aylesford, near Maidstone, have

## Poppy Appeal on target to beat £31m record despite the economic downturn

been kitting out their army of volunteers – including more than 1,500 in Kent – with everything they need in the run-up to Remembrance Day.

Appeal head Nick Buckley said: "It was remarkable to raise just under £31m last year and we're hoping to go past that and have another record year, which we have had for the past six years."

"The early signs are very encouraging, and despite the recession people are being fantastically generous. Our volunteers have been exceptional once again too, and are out there collecting whatever the weather."

"We've distributed 41 million poppies this year but that part of the operation is beginning to ease down, although the financial side is still very hectic."

"Our volunteers also call in a lot with various problems or questions about when or where they are

allowed to collect. The phone never stops ringing at this time of year."

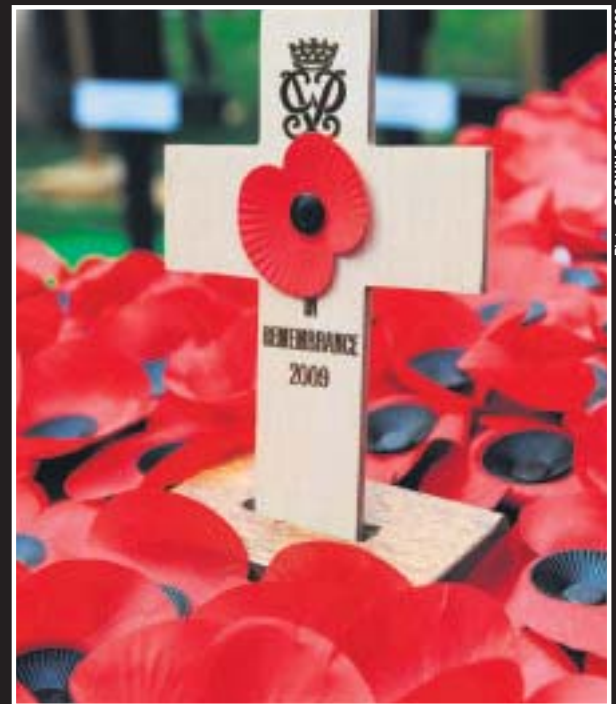
The Poppy Appeal brings in about half of the Royal British Legion's annual fundraising total every year. Last year about £750,000 was distributed in grants to former and current servicemen living in Kent.

This year's campaign, which was launched last November by wartime forces' sweetheart Dame Vera Lynn, highlights the need to support the 'Afghan generation' of wounded and bereaved.

Mr Buckley said: "The money goes to the welfare programme and we spend about a million pounds a week on serving and ex-servicemen and women and their families, ranging from young children through to the old man with his medals in the care home."

"We're also very much involved in

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

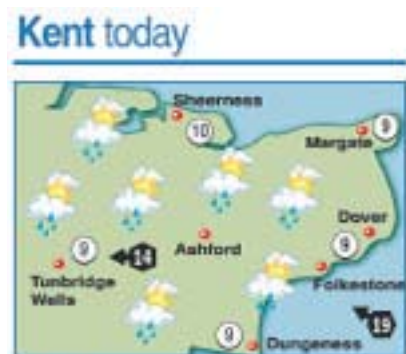


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**TODAY:** Mostly cloudy with showers, prolonged in the east. Turning clearer and drier later. Freshening southeasterly winds. Max temp 8-11°C (46-52°F).  
**TONIGHT:** Clear spells but also the small chance of a shower. Moderate northerly winds. Chilly. Min temp 3-6°C (37-43°F).

#### Around Britain

		C	F			C	F
Aberdeen	sun	9	48	London	drizzle	11	52
Belfast	sun	10	50	Liverpool	sun	11	52
Birmingham	sun	10	50	Manchester	sun	9	48
Bristol	sun	10	50	Newcastle	sun	10	50
Cardiff	sun	10	50	Nottingham	sun	11	52
Colk	sun	12	54	Oxford	sun	9	48
Edinburgh	sun	9	48	Sheffield	sun	11	52
Glasgow	sun	9	48	Southampton	sun	11	52
Isle of Man	sun	10	50	Swansea	sun	11	52
Leeds	sun	8	46	Torquay	sun	11	52

#### Sun & moon

Sunrise	7:05am	Sunset	4:15pm	Lighting up times
Waxing	3.4 hours	Waxing	12.4 hours	4.5pm to 7.4pm

#### High Tides

	today	tomorrow
	low (m)	low (m)
Dover	02:14 6.2 14:39 6.0	03:36 6.0 15:52 5.8
Margate	02:57 4.4 15:39 4.4	03:51 4.3 16:46 4.2
St Mary's	03:06 5.2 20:41 4.6	06:11 4.9 21:53 4.6

#### Week ahead

<b>Monday</b> Sunny spells. max 11°C min 4°C	<b>Thursday</b> Dull Rain. max 7°C min 7°C
<b>Tuesday</b> Dull Rain. max 11°C min 6°C	<b>Friday</b> Dull Rain. max 13°C min 6°C
<b>Wednesday</b> Dull Rain. max 11°C min 7°C	<b>Saturday</b> Scattered showers. max 13°C min 7°C

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Printed by Archant Print.

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# 'Their sacrifice keeps us free from tyranny'

TODAY across the country memorials will be held to remember our war dead.

In London, wreaths will be laid at the Cenotaph. In Kent, remembrance services will be held throughout the county – from Dover to Gravesend. We will remember the sacrifice made by so many, over generations, in service of the country, in defiance of tyranny and in defence of freedom.

We will remember, too, the sacrifice of the millions of young men from the United States, from across Europe, and from the far-flung Commonwealth who fought side by side in two World Wars for that same cause.

This year saw the passing of Harry Patch, the last remaining 'Tommy' who fought in the trenches during World War One.

This means we have lost our last living link to the fighting in the trenches of the Western Front. Harry and his generation stood firm in the face of extraordinary adversity and unimaginable suffering.

Those who fought in and supported the effort in World War Two are entering the autumn of their years. In one of the darkest hours this country has faced, they stood up to be counted. We are for ever indebted to them for the freedoms we enjoy today.

Brave men and women are again defending our national interest in Afghanistan. Without our presence there, along with 41 other nations, our safety and security would be reduced. For me, the wearing of the red poppy in October and November is a tradition so familiar, so ingrained, so much a regular entry in the national diary, that it seems to



By **BILL RAMMELL, MINISTER FOR THE ARMED FORCES**

mark the passing of the season as clearly as the falling of the leaves. We in Britain have a deep and abiding respect for our Armed Forces. This is not only evident on Remembrance Sunday. It can be seen in the success of the first Armed Forces Day held in June this year. It can be seen in the support for charities such as Help For Heroes, and ex-service organisations like the Royal British Legion. It can be seen in the spontaneous response of the people of Wootton Bassett lin-

ing the streets to pay tribute to those who have fallen in Afghanistan.

Many of the young men and women serving in bases throughout Kent are drawn from our local communities. Every Kent-based unit has seen recent operational service, some of the servicemen and women from Kent are on the frontline now.

Britain is not a militarised society. The experience of conscription and national service in the 20th century was unusual in our long history.

Though most in Britain now have little direct experience of service, links with the Armed Forces remain strong through family connections, membership of organisations such as the cadets, and the familiarity bred from living in garrison towns or naval ports.

As a society we have a duty to do all we can to look after the estimated 4.5 million veterans who have been prepared to put their lives on the line in our defence.

Many don't need specialised help, but we need to make sure that any veteran who does need help has somewhere to turn. A new one-stop-shop phone number for veterans, service personnel and their families has now been set up – 08000 223366.

It's free and will provide a first port of call for those seeking advice or who want to know what help they can get.

As we lay wreaths today, as we remember the sacrifices that have been made on our behalf by previous generations, I hope that we will all keep in our thoughts those men and women currently serving in Afghanistan.

They are the new breed of heroes. They deserve our support.

## Poppy Appeal £31m record target

### CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

helping people affected by current operations.

"We provide a lot of support for them and their families and have so far helped more than 10,000 people affected by Afghanistan and Iraq. Tragically, that's an awful lot of people who have needed our assistance."

The first official Poppy Day was held in Britain on November 11, 1921, and was inspired by the poem In Flanders' Fields by John McCrae.

It has since become a key event in the nation's calendar and the poppy is now part of everyday dress in the weeks leading up to Remembrance Day.

Producers of the popular BBC TV show

Strictly Come Dancing were criticised this week for refusing to allow contestants to wear them during routines, but changed their stance after a backlash.

Mr Buckley explained why the Poppy Appeal did not initially wish to comment on the row.

He said: "If they made a considered decision that it wouldn't be good to wear a poppy during a dance then we respect that."

"We wouldn't go rushing in saying it's a disgrace because the BBC is very supportive of the appeal in general, and Bruce Forsyth and the other people on the show were all wearing them."

Meanwhile, Lord Lieutenant of Kent Allan

Willett has challenged cadet units throughout the county to raise £50,000 for this year's Poppy Appeal and help the Royal British Legion – of which he is a patron – break the £31m target.

Last year they raised £30,000 between them.

Mr Willett said: "The Legion and the many seriously injured ex-service personnel they help are extremely grateful for the cadets' efforts."

"But knowing the high calibre, dedication and enthusiasm they possess, I believe they can do even better, especially at a time when we are in the run-up to the 150th anniversary of the founding of the cadet movement."

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By **MARIJKE COX**

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JESUS of Nazareth star Robert Powell is taking to the stage at Leeds Castle for the big return of the Open Air Classic Concert, following a two-year break.

The critically acclaimed performer, who scooped three best actor awards for his portrayal of the Son of God in the 1977 Franco Zeffirelli film, will narrate the concert on Saturday, July 3, 2010.

Powell said he was looking forward to starring in the popular event, but admitted to getting nervous when playing himself rather than one of the many characters he has portrayed over the years.

"I'm actually pleased to be able to be me, but I must admit I do get nervous," he said.

"I remember I was at an awards ceremony years ago with Eric Morecambe, who said to me, 'Come on, Robert, what's your problem? You can do this.'"

"I had to admit to being really nervous and Eric said, 'Don't be daft, lad, you're an actor – just pretend to be somebody else'."

"So I did. I pretended to be Michael Aspel and it worked."

### Gurkhas

But the 65-year-old, who plays Mark Williams in popular BBC hospital drama Holby City, said that despite the jitters he was excited about performing at Leeds Castle.

"I'm looking forward to everything – the marvellous setting, the music, the pomp and the ceremony of it all," he said.

Also treading the boards on the night will be the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, leading tenor Wynne Evans, award-winning soprano Elizabeth Watts and admired baritone Richard Morrison.

The Band of the Brigade of Gurkhas, based at Folkestone, will open the event and the evening will come to a dramatic climax with fireworks and the firing of cannons.

The celebrations will also include a fly-past by a Hurricane and Spitfire, flown by pilots Anna Walker and Flt Lt Charlie Brown respectively, to mark the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

Organiser Heritage Events said the concert series, which has been running for more than 25 years, was brought back by popular demand after a two-year gap.

The break was blamed on problems with the long wait to get out of the car park, and competition from other venues country-wide, but organisers hope to draw in a



Leeds Castle

**STARS:** Conductor John Rigby, BBC South East Today's Robin Gibson, Robert Powell, Hurricane pilot Anna Walker and Spitfire pilot Flt Lt Charlie Brown (RAF)

# Powell will play himself at castle classic concert

crowd of 16,000. Chris Yates, of Heritage Events, said: "The time was right to bring the Leeds Castle concerts back and we are proud to be producing this incredible show. "We realise parking was an issue in the past and now have more measures in place to avoid that happening again."

Bill Lash, operations director at Leeds Castle, said: "I think people began not to enjoy the concerts as much. It almost became a victim of its own success."

"The problem with parking was a factor, but we have lots of dedicated people and operation teams to make sure it is better managed."

"We also now have competition from other venues such as the O2, but we are

back with a programme that is second to none and with the backdrop of the most beautiful castle in the land."

Visit [www.heritage-events.co.uk](http://www.heritage-events.co.uk) for more information.

## Gay porn sir's off

A HARVEY Grammar teacher who was suspended after pictures of him posing semi-naked appeared on a gay-porn website has left the school.

In a statement, the boys' school in Folkestone said it had accepted Sam Handley's resignation, "following recent media interest".

The school said the "events in question" took place before he started working at the Harvey.

PE teacher Mr Handley, 25, was suspended in September after the photos were discovered online and passed between pupils.

## Mayor cat charge

THE Mayor of Margate appeared in court on Thursday to face a charge of animal cruelty.

The RSPCA is pursuing the prosecution against Edwin Watt-Ruffell, of Kingston Avenue, Garlinge.

He is charged causing unnecessary suffering to a kitten in his care. The case was due to be heard at Margate, but will now take place before the bench at Medway Magistrates' Court after he asked for it to be moved.

Watt-Ruffell, who is a Conservative councillor for the Dane Valley ward, was appointed as Mayor of Margate in May.

To view search 'challenge' @ [yourkenttv.co.uk](http://yourkenttv.co.uk)



Meet the winners at the awards dinner for the KOS Media £1 Million Business Challenge

## 'Parkway' stations idea for high-speed trains

TRANSPORT chiefs want to build four 'parkway' train stations in Kent to take advantage of the new Channel Tunnel rail link.

Maidstone and Thanet would both receive entirely new stations as part of the county council's 20-year strategy for economic growth, while existing sites at Westenhanger, near Folkestone, and Appledore, on Romney Marsh, would be given major upgrades.

Geoff Mee, director of integrated strategy and planning for Kent County Council, said: "The proposed stations would provide a significant amount of car parking to enable people to access the high-speed train services much more easily than before."

"They [parkway stations] would be transport hubs, so buses would also go to them and there would be provision for cyclists."

Mr Mee said Maidstone was most in need of a new station, as journey times to London on High Speed One are currently over an hour when they could be less than 30 minutes from a more suitable location.

The High Speed One fast service will come into full operation next month, enabling commuters to travel from Ashford to London in just 37 minutes and from Dartford and Gravesend in less than 20.

The parkway proposal is just one of several put forward in Mr Mee's Growth Without Gridlock report, which forms part of a wider regeneration framework entitled Unlocking Kent's Potential.

### Rush hour

It will be discussed by county councillors on Tuesday before going out for public consultation.

Other proposals within the document include a new bus rapid transit system and the formation of a Kent Passenger Transport Authority, examples of which already exist in areas such as Greater Manchester.

Such an authority would allow Kent to run more high-speed trains during rush hour, bring down fares for commuters and so on.

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# School places cheating is widespread, says expert

EDUCATION chiefs do not understand the full scale of parents cheating to get places in the best schools for their children, says an independent adviser.

Former Kent headteacher Peter Read feels far more parents get away with address fraud than are investigated by local authorities, and is backing a new Government-commissioned report calling for a crackdown.

Written by former Kent County Council education director Ian Craig, the study says an estimated 3,500 parents nationally lie on school application forms each year.

However, both KCC and Medway Council deny there is a big problem in Kent.

Mr Read said: "The problem is local authorities don't investigate enough and people are getting away with it, which encourages others to do the same.

"I receive reports from parents who are concerned others are cheating, but it is rare that these people are ever found out.

"If councils are saying it's not a problem, then they don't know the full scale of it. They don't dig deep enough.

"When KCC does choose to take action, it delegates the investigation to whichever school is involved. I was dealing with one case last year where we reported to KCC that we had found a case of address fraud, but they put it to the school, which said it trusted its parents. It was only when we pushed it that the child lost their place."

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

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Dr Craig was commissioned to carry out the report as a result of a London authority's failed attempt to use the 2006 Fraud Act to prosecute a parent who had allegedly lied about her address to get her son into a popular primary. After seeking legal advice, Harrow Council was told the legislation did not apply and the action was dropped.

As part of his report, Dr Craig asked the 150 English education authorities to provide information on the scale of fraudulent or misleading applications in their area.

Two-fifths of the 123 councils that responded said the problem was a growing one, with a total of 1,100 investigated incidents reported.

## Misleading

Of the 16,270 secondary school admissions processed by KCC in September, only 13 were flagged up as misleading. Just six were found to be fraudulent of the 14,750 reception year applications made. Medway Council was unable to provide figures.

Dr Craig's report recommends local authorities use all means open to them to deter parents from cheating, such as removing places from the guilty and pursuing them through the courts. Mr Read, who runs Kent Independent Education Advice, agreed this was the best way forward.

He said: "Some parents cheat because they want the best for their children and if faced

with a situation where a school is inaccessible they will sometimes break the rules.

"But they shouldn't. It's wrong and they've stolen a place from someone else. What's needed is strong policing of the system.

"The child in question will suffer, but it seems a necessary solution to remove them if their parents are found to have cheated.

"If parents knew this would be the outcome it might stop them in the first place."

Education director Rosalind Turner said while KCC did not consider fraudulent applications to be a big problem in Kent, it took any potential abuse seriously.

She said: "We investigate cases brought to our attention. These tend to be made by schools that carry out address checks.

"The Secretary of State [Ed Balls] has published his response to the chief adjudicator [Dr Craig] and asked him to investigate what further action might be appropriate. We wait with interest to see what recommendations are made."

A Medway Council official said: "As part of our admissions process, we do check addresses for all secondary school applicants and whenever a query may arise concerning the legitimacy of an application, parents will be contacted and asked to provide further evidence of residence. All queries concerning fraudulent applications are investigated."

Mr Read gives advice to parents on school admissions and appeals. Visit the website [www.kentadvice.co.uk](http://www.kentadvice.co.uk) for more information.

• **Kent's grammar conundrum** - see *Peter Read's Opinion on page 32.*

## Arm loss firm fined

A STONE company has been made to pay more than £13,000 after a delivery driver lost an arm when a stack of slabs fell on him.

The injured man, who had been unloading three 220kg stone slabs from his lorry in Bedlam Court Lane in Minster, Thanet, in September, 2008, had to have his left arm amputated at the roadside.

Colin Parker Masonry, of Spalding, Lincs, was prosecuted and fined £3,000 and ordered to pay full costs of £10,603 by Margate magistrates on Thursday.

## MEP's Lisbon focus

DANIEL Hannan has quit the Tory front-bench at the European Parliament over David Cameron's decision to drop plans for a referendum on the Lisbon Treaty.

The outspoken Kent MEP, who was legal affairs spokesman for just two months, said he wanted to return to the backbenches to focus on campaigning for a referendum and appealed to fellow Conservatives to join him.

To view search 'Santa run'  
@ [yourkenttv.co.uk](http://yourkenttv.co.uk)



Julie Maddocks learns about the Christmas Santa Run at Leeds Castle later this month

# Family reveal distress as son's killer is sentenced

A MURDERER has been sentenced to life imprisonment for killing a man in a drunken fight.

Sean Maher attacked Darren Turner in Cliftonville in March, and was sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court this week.

He must serve a minimum of 14 years, less the 215 days he spent on remand.

The brawl ended with Maher, 21, stabbing Mr Turner, 36, who died despite the efforts of medical teams at the QEOM Hospital in Margate to save him.

Police were called to an address in Wilderness Hill on March 31, after Mr Turner had been stabbed.

Maher ran from the scene and discarded his clothes to try to cover up what he had done.

Det Con Maria Shepherd said: "Witnesses said the fight had been the result of a worthless argument, but the presence of a knife, added to alcohol, turned a scuffle into a murder which has devastated so many lives."

While the killing was taking place, a young girl called the police, pleading for help.

Det Con Shepherd said: "It is shocking that they witnessed such extreme violence."

The parents of Mr Turner paid tribute to their son.

They said: "On April 1 we received the devastating news no parent wants to hear: that our only son had died. The effect it has had on us and our extended family is huge.

"Darren was happy-go-lucky and enjoyed life to the full. He had many friends and this has devastated them as well.

"His only sister, brother-in-law and his two



TRAGIC LOSS: Darren Turner, above, was stabbed to death by Sean Maher, left, who tried to cover his tracks



young nephews have found it very hard to come to terms with Darren's loss and cannot believe they will not see him again. We, as parents, find everyday life very tough and cannot believe we will not see him again.

"The defendant will still have a full life ahead of him but this is what we have been denied."

Judge Jeremy Carey commended the officers who worked on the case, and in particular the sensitive way in which the children involved were dealt with.

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# Undersea national park proposed for Channel

By **MARIJKE COX**

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

**MARINE** experts in Kent are looking to create a 'national park of the sea' in the English Channel.

Similar to areas that are protected on land, the new Marine Conservation Zone will ensure that much of the UK wildlife living in the sea will be protected.

Marine life is under threat from factors such as overfishing, pollution and habitat disruption through dredging of the seabed.

The Balanced Seas project, managed by Sue Wells at the University of Kent at Canterbury, is part of the Government's Marine and Coastal Access Bill.

Mrs Wells said it aims to outline key zones where fish, birds, plant life and geology can be protected.

World famous marine habitats such as Australia's Great Barrier Reef and the Florida Keys in the United States are managed by similar laws where sea-based activities are regulated or restricted.

Mrs Wells said: "Balanced Seas looks at the management of UK marine waters from the Suffolk and Essex border round to the Hampshire and Dorset border.

"This includes the Thames Estuary and the Dover Strait. A lot of the wildlife here is already under threat and as the human pop-



**HIDDEN DEPTHS:** Deep-sea anemone

ulation grows the threat will only get greater."

Mrs Wells and her team are working with marine organisations to map out the areas that need protection.

They are also working with regular sea users and those who make a living in the Channel, including fishermen, ferry companies and wind farm developers.

She said: "Fishing, for example, is one of the things we need to look at. It's all about balancing up the industry while ensuring there is no exploitation.

"There is a lot of work that goes on in the sea and we want to work closely with those

involved to make sure the areas they use don't conflict too much with where the Marine Conservation Zone will be.

"We don't want to stop people fishing or enjoying the sea. Activities just need to be regulated."

Information about wildlife in the Channel is constantly being gathered by divers and the Balanced Seas team use it as part of their research.

Mrs Wells said: "There are lots of fish and other marine life in the Channel, but on top of that there are beautiful underwater seascapes that people just don't know about.

"We all know about landscapes such as the



**FIVE ALIVE:** Starfish thrive in our waters



**COMMON SIGHT:** The tompot blenny

White Cliffs of Dover, but little is known about what lies beneath the waters."

A group is being set up involving sea users so they can have a say on proposals.

If the Marine and Access Bill becomes law, the first Marine Protection Zone could be in place by the end of 2012.

A talk on the Balanced Seas project is being held on Thursday, November 27, at Canterbury Christ Church University. Go to [www.balancedseas.org](http://www.balancedseas.org) for more information.

News and sport updated daily online  
[www.kentnews.co.uk](http://www.kentnews.co.uk)

## Making slow but steady progress in cleaning environment

THE humble snail isn't often credited as offering anything more useful than dinner for a Frenchman, but some endangered varieties in Kent are helping protect the environment.

The knock-on effect of keeping them safe is also helping a whole range of insects, snails and other invertebrates in marshland and other wet places, say a team of experts.

Many of these species are now so threatened they have been given legal protection or made the subject of special action plans to protect their habitats.

Ecologists at Cardiff University have shown conserving three of Britain's rarest snails has had unexpected benefits, and one of the sites is in the Stour Valley. Land has been set aside and managed for the snails, but the unique



**CLEAN WATER:** The little whirlpool ram's horn snail is one of the rarities found in Kent

and special places that protect them are also helping other species by providing some of the cleanest water in the country.

Scientists think that, by acting as a stimulus to restrict chemical and fertiliser use on land around the protected sites, snail conservation has provided an incentive to protect water quality. They are particularly proud of the shining ram's horn, the little whirlpool ram's horn and the large-mouthed valve snail.

These three are Europe's rarest snails and live in drainage ditches on wet grasslands.

Smaller than a little fingernail, all three have declined markedly in recent decades because of habitat loss or pollution. They are among approximately 900 species listed on the UK Biodiversity Action Plan, of

which half are invertebrates.

Professor Steve Ormerod, of Cardiff University's School of Biosciences, who led the work in Kent, said: "We are realising increasingly that species conservation gives us wider benefits because it helps protect other features in the environment.

"This appears to be just as valid when we conserve even humble animals, such as snails, as it is for bigger and more charismatic ones."

Dr Isabelle Durance, another member of the Cardiff team, said: "For the last decade, there has been a major battle to halt the loss of biodiversity by 2010, but we're failing. This evidence about the wider benefits and value of conserving rare invertebrates comes at a critical time to help focus new efforts."

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## MP's wife vows to fight if Kelly gives her boot

THE wife of a veteran MP has vowed to fight a controversial report that recommends she be sacked from working for her husband.

Suzy Gale has worked for North Thanet Conservative MP Roger Gale for almost 27 years, but could soon be given the boot under new rules proposed as part of a shake-up of the MPs' expenses system.

The plans were laid out in a report published this week by Sir Christopher Kelly.

Mrs Gale, who is a fully-qualified executive PA and secretary, told KoS it was unfair that dedicated employees had been caught up in the expenses scandal.

She said: "We have been lumped in with the expenses issue just because one or two people abused the system, even though there are still lots of MPs' relatives who are doing a fantastic job."

### Confident

Mrs Gale, who has threatened to sue if she is forced to quit, said she was confident she was the best person for the job and "not just some old dear banging away on a typewriter".

She added: "We have employment law on our side and probably have a case for discrimination, too, because there's been nothing to suggest somebody who lives with an MP but is not married to him or her will be forced to give up their job."

"It's ludicrous and what we all resent is that the public now hate us when all we want to do is get on with our jobs."

The Kelly report will now go out for consultation before a new expenses system is implemented next spring.

# Elderly charity aims to take the dread out of Christmas



**BLEAK MIDWINTER:** The festive season can be anything but for many over-55s left on their own

MEMORIES of better days gone by could spell another miserable Christmas for hundreds of elderly residents, **writes Steve Knight.**

The festive season is typically one of the toughest times of the year for those with little or no family and friends, with an Age Concern survey suggesting one in three people over the age of 55 dread its arrival.

However, one charity is determined to make this Christmas as enjoyable as possible for the county's elderly and is calling on other organisations and individuals to help do the same.

The Abbeyfield Kent Society offers sheltered housing and residential care to more than 450 people through its 14 homes, and as part of a new fund-raising campaign hopes to support non-clients as well by inviting them to Christmas Day dinner.

Chief executive Leon Steer said: "Some people seem to forget that elderly people were once young too and have had enjoyable Christmases in the past. That's why it can be a depressing time of year for many because they remember the good times."

"We try to make it as pleasant as we can for people who might otherwise be forgotten, but we only have so much money to go around. If we can raise more we can make them a bit more special. Current figures indicate that one in three over-85s is severely lonely and dying on their own. We don't

want people to slip off the radar."

Volunteers from the society will be visiting shopping centres throughout Kent this month to talk to people about the issues faced by elderly people such as loneliness, helplessness and boredom. The roadshow forms part of Abbeyfield's Who Cares? campaign, which recently established a bursary to bridge the funding gap for residents who can no longer afford the cost of care.

### Concern

Mr Steer said: "I became concerned about a number of residents in our homes who live with the daily fear that they will become homeless when their money runs out. Social services are unable to cover the full costs and end up leaving a shortfall, so we agreed last year to start a bursary fund to try and top up the shortfall."

"A lot of people I have met do have sufficient funds, but because none of us know how long we are going to live, there is a fear. This fund gives them that sense of security."

Visit [www.abbeyfieldkent.org](http://www.abbeyfieldkent.org) for more information.

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# CLEAN YOUR HANDS

IT IS EVERYONE'S DUTY TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF INFECTION



**NHS**

*Eastern and Coastal Kent*



# Cervical screening rates up, thanks to Jade Goody

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

THE 'Jade Goody effect' has contributed to a countywide increase in the number of women being screened for cervical cancer.

Awareness of the disease went through the roof following the reality television star's diagnosis and subsequent death in March, and new NHS figures show uptake rates have too.

The percentage of eligible women who have accepted a screening request has increased at all of Kent and Medway's primary care trusts, as well as at those in Bromley and Bexley.

All now have uptake rates above 80 per cent, while the national average is 78.9 per cent.

Dr John Rodriguez – public health screening lead for Kent and Medway – told KOS Media the figures would be even more impressive had the NHS report in question covered a shorter length of time.

He said: "The percentages we are seeing don't fully reflect the situation because the report looks at uptake rates over a five-year period ending in March. Therefore the earlier figures are weighing the improved ones down."

"What we now call the 'Jade Goody effect' caused the number of women responding to our screening requests to shoot up. It happened about halfway through January and peaked in March, when we had double the number of women compared to January which is a huge increase."

"We really want this to continue, but it has slipped back recently."

"It's terribly sad that it takes something like Jade's death to perhaps frighten some people into having this test. But we don't want to frighten people – we want them to come forward positively so we can help reduce the chances of them catching this horrible disease."

With an uptake rate of 83.2 per cent, compared to 82.8 last year, NHS West Kent had the highest of Kent's primary care trusts.

Medway's was 82 per cent (compared to 81.8 per cent), Eastern and Coastal was 80.8 per cent (80.7), Bexley was 82.1 per cent (81.5) and Bromley was 81.9 per cent (81.3).

## Frightened

While Dr Rodriguez admits cervical cancer screening tests are not 100 per cent effective, he estimates that 140 lives are saved every year in Kent and Medway because of them.

In comparison, about 30 women die every year, the majority of whom do not have a good screening history.

He said: "I think some people have other things going on in their lives and maybe find it difficult to find the time or make it a priority. Other people may be frightened they are going to get some bad news and so think it's perhaps best to put it out of their minds completely."

"It appears to me the majority of women take the invitation and attend almost immediately and it would be great if everybody did that."

"Those who don't come should realise they're in the minority and are putting themselves at more risk unnecessarily."



TRAGIC DEATH: Reality TV star Jade Goody

## Student bus riot

A POLICE officer was left with facial injuries and several colleagues were assaulted after a riot broke out in Orpington high street.

Trouble started after a large number of college students were unable to get on a packed bus at around 5.30pm on Tuesday.

The 25-year-old community support officer received a cut above his eye and was taken to hospital.

Backup was drafted in, including dog handlers, to try and deal with the students, but two more officers were hit during the struggles.

Six teenagers were arrested, and the high street was closed for one hour.

## Poachers trapped

A CAMPAIGN clamping down on illegal hare coursing and poaching has been launched in Maidstone.

Police will work with farmers and gamekeepers to build up intelligence about offenders as part of the scheme, which runs until January 31.

Sgt Mathew Chapman said: "Poaching and hare coursing are often linked to other kinds of rural crime such as theft and burglary. We want offenders to know that neither will be tolerated and we will deal with offenders robustly."

## Author's all heart

AN AUTHOR is holding a talk about the history of Pratts Bottom to raise money for the British Heart Foundation.

Retired teacher Sue Short will discuss her book *Pratts Bottom: A Journey Through Life* at Coolings Garden Centre, Rushmore Hill in Pratts Bottom at 10am on Friday, December 4.

The 63-year-old chose to donate funds to the charity after suffering a heart attack last year.

Her book is dedicated to her husband who died after being knocked off his bike in 1993, a year after moving into a home they built in Knockholt.



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MAGIC MAN:  
Lewis Fuller

# Cancer patient with a trick up his sleeve

A YOUNG magician is hoping to pull off his biggest trick to date by beating a rare form of bone cancer, *writes Steve Knight.*

Last Christmas 11-year-old Lewis Fuller, from Biddenden, near Ashford, was fighting for his life in hos-

pital just months after being diagnosed with Ewing's sarcoma, which some experts believe is linked to rapid bone growth.

However, just under a year on and the Magic Circle member is fighting fit and wowing audiences throughout Kent with his impressive repertoire of table-top tricks.

Dad Jason, a civil engineer, said: "It will be another year before Lewis gets back to his old strength, but it's amazing to think that last Christmas he was fighting for his life and now he's on top of the world."

"He finished his chemotherapy in January and is in remission now but he has to go to hospital every eight weeks for check-ups.

## New toys

"Lewis' attitude towards his illness has been unbelievable. He's never lost faith and has been a true positive spirit, and has actually helped the whole family through it."

Doctors diagnosed Ewing's sarcoma in April last year after the youngster was taken into A&E at Ashford's William Harvey Hospital with a bump on his collarbone.

Fewer than 30 children per year in the UK are found to be suffering with the cancer.

Lewis spent two days in intensive care after having his collarbone removed at the William Harvey, while his chemotherapy sessions took place at the University College Hospital in London.

Mr Fuller said: "One day while he was hav-

ing chemotherapy I got him a magic set from Hamleys and he just took to it straight away.

"The hospital was visited by a magician the same day and he took Lewis through some of the tricks, and he was a natural."

"We wrote to Etienne Pradier, who's a well-known French magician who lives in Kent, and he agreed to help train Lewis for free."

While Lewis was undergoing therapy, his parents – Mr Fuller and his wife Vicki – raised more than £20,000 through charity events, a third of which was used to buy new toys for youngsters treated at the William Harvey's Padua Ward.

The remainder was split between the University College Hospital and the Bone Cancer Research Trust, but the family's fundraising has not yet come to an end.

Mr Fuller said: "You can hire Lewis for £50 per hour, and £10 of that goes to the Bone Cancer Research Trust. The rest he spends on equipment for his acts."

"He's really good and people are often amazed at how well he does the tricks. He's done lots of shows and has also performed with comic Dave Lee to help raise money for the new Marlowe Theatre."

"But because he's a member of the Young Magicians' Club of the Magic Circle he won't tell anyone how the tricks are done, so I'm as much in the dark as anyone."

To hire Lewis, call Mr Fuller on 07977 442924.

## THE MAGIC OF BEING CLOSE TO BIG CATS

W H F is a charity based in Kent working hard to ensure the survival of big cat species. We are an active partner in the European Endangered Species Breeding Programmes and raise awareness and funding for cat projects around the world.

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# Eurostar cleaners in strike threat

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

THE Government has been asked to intervene in a dispute over the alleged bullying of cleaners working on Eurostar trains.

A series of strikes planned by the mostly black and ethnic minority staff were called off late last month when the company they are employed by – Carlisle Cleaning and Support Services – agreed to talk to the Rail, Maritime and Transport (RMT) union.

In addition to the alleged harassment, the workers are also upset at being paid less than the London living wage and have been protesting against the use of fingerprinting machines that have replaced the clocking-in system at St Pancras International.

Talks between the two sides got underway last week as St Pancras Labour MP Frank Dobson was calling on the Government to help bring a just conclusion to the dispute.

He tabled an Early Day Motion in the House of Commons condemning the “employment abuses” he said were “more akin to the Victorian age”, and voicing his concern that there was a “racial undertone to the haranguing of the workforce”.

The EDM has been signed by 47 MPs, including Dover and Deal’s Gwyn Prosser.

Mr Dobson said: “These workers have been badly treated. They are underpaid and are denied the sick pay and pensions that should be associated with reputable companies.

## Poverty wages

“I’ve always been in support of the Channel Tunnel and the new Channel Tunnel Rail Link, but I don’t think its future depends on paying poverty wages to the people who clean the trains.

“I don’t like the idea that companies are making good money off the backs of poorly-paid employees and it’s a situation that needs to be put right, quite frankly.”

The cleaners originally planned to strike on October 23 and 25, as well as Friday, November 6, and Sunday, November 8.

The action could have affected the quality of trains passing through Ebbsfleet and Ashford International on the way to France. However, Carlisle Cleaning and the RMT entered into talks last week and it is hoped they will be able to make a compromise.

RMT spokesman Geoff Martin said: “The strike action is still suspended and the RMT is committed to winning this fight for the Eurostar workers. We will stay in talks for as long as we are able to do that.”

A spokesman for Carlisle Cleaning said: “Thirty per cent of our Eurostar cleaning staffs are paid more than London living wage and the remainder are pence away.

“With four per cent annualised offers on the table, the RMT’s demands for three monthly compounded increases cannot be financed.

“We reject the comments about bullying, harassment and any suggestion this is about our diverse, multi-ethnic workforce which we as a business are rightly proud of.”

A Eurostar spokeswoman said the firm had encouraged Carlisle to find a swift resolution to the dispute.

She added: “We do not recognise allegations about working practices made in the EDM. Eurostar is pleased the RMT called off the planned strikes and is hopeful progress will now be made in resolving the dispute.”

# Simply Red turning over a new leaf

A FOREST in the leafy village of Goudhurst is the last place you would expect to find Simply Red singer Mick Hucknall.

But the flame-haired frontman – who has sold more than 50 million albums over 25 years with his band – has just become the first act to announce dates as part of the Forestry Commission Live Music concerts.

The group will perform at Bedgebury Pinetum and Forest near Goudhurst on Saturday, June 12, next year.

Fans can expect to hear classic hits including Holding Back the Years, Something Got Me Started and the number one hit single Fairground.

The 49-year-old singer said the band decided to hit the forest circuit after enjoying performing at another woodland venue earlier this year.

“We decided it would be great to play all the forest concert venues around the country in 2010,” he said. “It is a fantastic experience for a band to play in these unique settings.”

Organisers behind the Forestry Commission Live Music events expect it to be a sell-out.

Paddy Harrop, national recreation manager for the Forestry Commission in England, said he was thrilled that a band more used to playing big arenas had agreed to perform in Goudhurst.

“These concerts started in 1998 and they really have blossomed since then,” he said.

“In the past we’ve had Jools Holland playing in Goudhurst and Paul Weller at another one of the gigs.

“To get another great act like Simply Red is fantastic.

“Although I can’t say for definite, I would bet money that it’s a sell-out. It’s definitely going



**SOUL MAN:** Mick Hucknall

to bring a lot of people in.”

Mr Harrop said one of the reasons behind holding live music events in forests around the country was to introduce people to their beauty.

He said: “Walkers and ramblers come to the forests, but we want all types of people to visit.

“This event could see many people coming to Bedgebury Pinetum and Forest for the first time and we hope they will come back.”

Money made through the live music events goes towards improving woodlands for wildlife and visitors.

Mr Harrop said: “Part of the reason this started was to generate income to look after the forests and woodland.”

Tickets are £38, subject to booking fee, and go on sale at 9am on Friday, November 6.

Call the ticket hotline on 01842 814612 or buy online at [www.forestry.gov.uk/music](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/music).

For more information visit [www.simplyred.com](http://www.simplyred.com).

## Plane crash memorial

A MEMORIAL stone dedicated to civilians and airmen killed in an aeroplane accident during World War Two is to be unveiled during a special ceremony on Tuesday, November 10.

On July 30, 1941, an RAF pilot lost control of his Hampden Bomber during a lightning storm and crashed into a row of houses in East Hill, Dartford.

While he survived the accident, all remaining crew members and three civilians were killed.

The memorial will be unveiled at St Edmunds Pleasance, East Hill, at 10.30am.

## Death fine at rice firm

A RICE manufacturing company has been fined £140,000 after one of its employees died when his leg became trapped in a machine.

Worker Balwinder Singh Aulakh suffered fatal injuries in the accident at Rochester-based Veetee Rice Ltd, on September 11, 2006.

The company was prosecuted by the Health and Safety Executive for failing to ensure dangerous machinery could not be accessed by workers, and was fined at Maidstone Crown Court on Thursday.

Bosses were also ordered to pay £20,500 court costs.

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# Health chiefs ask patients with flu to steer clear of their GP and casualty units

## NHS braced for tough winter

HEALTH chiefs are urging people suffering flu symptoms to think twice before going to A&E as the NHS prepares for one of its toughest winters yet. Figures released by the county's three health trusts show that since October 28, 762 people have been admitted to hospital in connection with swine flu. The latest numbers for flu-like illnesses in west Kent have shown a slight drop to 64 per 100,000 population from 65.1 the previous week.

In the Eastern and Coastal Kent area, the rate has also dropped slightly to 28.7 per 100,000 from 30.4 the week before. Only in Medway has there been a rise, from 20 per 100,000 to 32. But winter weather is expected to put added pressure on the NHS with more cases of swine flu on top of the usual seasonal illnesses, such as winter vomiting virus.

This has prompted health bosses to urge the public to avoid going to emergency departments or GPs when suffering from flu.

Dr Julian Webb, clinical lead for A&E services at Maidstone and Kent and Sussex Hospitals, said every year the NHS experiences a surge in demand for beds in the colder months.

"With seasonal flu and swine flu circulating this winter, in addition to all of the regular winter pressures faced in A&E, we really need people in Kent and Medway to stop and think twice about the service that is right for them," he said.

"Emergency services are for severe injuries and symptoms of severe illnesses, such as a choking, chest pain, sudden collapse and blood loss.

### Treatment

"There are a wide range of services out there for other health issues, such as walk-in centres, pharmacists, GPs and a wealth of information and advice through NHS Direct."

Dr Sarah Andrews, director of nursing at NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent, agreed with Dr Webb and stressed that many ailments can be treated at home.

"Staying at home and caring for yourself is the best option for things like hangovers, grazed knees, sore throats and coughs," she said.

She added that the public should be prepared over the winter months by making sure they have essentials like paracetamol, aspirin and anti-diarrhoea medicine.

Sharon Jones, director of resilience planning at NHS West Kent, stressed that people should contact the National Pandemic Flu Service which can advise on symptoms and how to collect antivirals.

She added: "Only phone your GP directly if you have a serious existing illness, you are pregnant, you have a sick child under one year old, your condition suddenly gets much worse or your condition is still getting worse after seven days, or five for a child."

Dr Alison Barnett, director of public health, said: "If you're offered a jab against seasonal flu or swine flu, take it. Immunisation is highly effective, safe and helps save lives."

The National Pandemic Flu Service hotline is 0800 1513 100 or 0800 1513 200. For more information see [www.direct.gov.uk/pandemicflu](http://www.direct.gov.uk/pandemicflu).

# Grieving mother urges everyone to get the flu jab

A GRIEVING mother who lost her eight-year-old daughter to swine flu is urging people to get vaccinated against the virus, *writes Marijke Cox*.

Kelly Gibson, 32, from Erith, near Dartford, said had the vaccination been around when the outbreak first happened she would have made sure her daughter, Holly, had the jab.

The youngster, who suffered from a rare chromosome disorder and a weakened immune system, fell ill with what was believed to be a bad chest infection in July and was immediately given antibiotics.

But two days later she was rushed to Queen Mary's Hospital in Sidcup with breathing difficulties and transferred to St Thomas' Hospital in Westminster where she was put on a respirator.

Seven days after being admitted Holly was diagnosed with swine flu. A week later she died in her mother's arms.

### Act quickly

Mrs Gibson, who also has four-year-old twin girls with her husband Scott, 37, said swine flu was the last thing she expected.

"We thought she had a chest infection and never once thought it would be swine flu.

"I just thought she was really poorly. She used to get chest infections a lot but after two days on antibiotics she was finding it hard to breathe and was taken to hospital.

"Swine flu was the last thing on my mind. It's one of those things you read about but never think will happen to you or your family.

"There were no warning signs about what symptoms to look for and there was no vaccination in July. I'm so angry at the way the situation has been dealt with by the Government. It should never have been allowed to spread the way it has in this country.

"A vaccination and warnings should have been put in place before it had a chance to spread."

Mrs Gibson is now urging people to get vaccinated to stop the same heartache happening to them.

"It's too late for Holly now, but vulnerable people really must get vaccinated," she said.

"If people experience flu-like symptoms they shouldn't ignore them. Please act quickly.

"I don't want anyone else to go through what this family has gone through. I've lost my little girl and I don't want that to happen to anyone else. I think every single person in



**TRAGEDY:** Holly succumbed to swine flu in July and died in her mother Kelly's arms

the country should be vaccinated and there should be mass vaccination in schools."

Mrs Gibson added: "Swine flu is going to get worse now that winter is here and I expect to see the number of people getting it rise, which is even more worrying."

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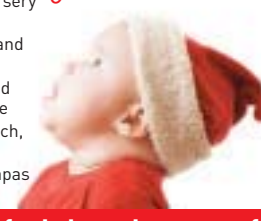
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A NEW quango that could bypass local councils and give the go-ahead for developments without public consultation has been condemned as the beginning of the end of planning democracy, *writes Chris Murphy*.

The chairman of Protect Kent, Richard Knox-Johnston, is dismayed at the level of power Government has handed the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC). He said: "I don't think people fully understand what this could mean. It is an enormous amount of power and a major loss of democracy."

"Planning inquiries will be a thing of the past, which means they can push through all sorts of projects and no-one will be able to do a thing about it."

### Infrastructure

Experts say the IPC could threaten listed buildings and Green Belt land.

The commission can make and enforce decisions on major infrastructure projects.

These could include wind farms and nuclear power stations, plus it could remove Green Belt protection and allow developers to seize private land. Councils and residents would be all but helpless to influence planning decisions.

IPC chairman Sir Michael Pitt has defended its power, saying it will streamline the way planning consents are

# 'Plans quango a real threat to democracy'

acquired. He said: "The country needs a more effective means of decision making on national infrastructure."

A new policy promises to reduce the number of applications for planning permission that have previously been rejected on heritage-related grounds.

Mr Knox-Johnston said: "I have been attending the public inquiry into Kent International Gateway at Bearsted. When the IPC starts work, such inquiries will be a thing of the past."

"No longer would people have a say."

"Apart from objecting as individuals, they will not be able to be represented by their district or county council."

"Democracy at every level would be lost with an unelected, unrepresentative, unconnected and uncaring body making decisions on applications that could result in large areas of countryside being lost."

"KIG is 270 acres adjacent to an Area of Outstanding

Natural Beauty. The similar suggestion for Borough Green is on Green Belt land, part of which is an AONB.

"There is an application for an international airport at Lydd which would affect the RSPB reserve at Dungeness."

"If we are to protect our countryside and continue to enjoy local democracy, we need the IPC dissolved as soon as possible. Both the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats have pledged to repeal the act."

Martin Willey, president of the Royal Town Planning Institute, said: "This could prove to be a charter for people who want to knock buildings down."

"This new guidance assumes that heritage stands in the way of development and economic recovery, which is patently untrue. Historic places are an asset, not a burden."

The Department for Communities and Local Government said it would still listen to local concerns.

## Cinematic nostalgia trip in isle

EVER wondered what Thanet looked like back in the 1920s, a time when showing a lady's ankle was just becoming acceptable from bathing beauties?

Almost a century of history is contained in a new film to be screened in Broadstairs this weekend. It shows a unique view of the changing face of Thanet, from the Roaring Twenties to the present day.

The film includes rare and unusual footage of the isle, including a zeppelin over Thanet, and Broadstairs' legendary seaside entertainer, Uncle Mac.

Margate's Dreamland can be seen in its heyday, when tourists flocked to be thrilled on the wooden Scenic Railway rollercoaster and a host of other rides.

But the film also covers the more controversial side of life, including the National Front marching in Margate, battles over Westwood Cross, overdevelopment, Thanet Earth and the China Gateway project.

The compilation has been put together by Broadstairs-based film-maker Christine Tongue. She said: "This footage shows how Thanet has changed from a seaside holiday paradise to what we see today. People will watch with a range of emotions – nostalgia, surprise, shock and anger."

Ms Tongue said one of her intentions in



SANDS OF TIME: Women enjoy the bracing sea air in 1920s Thanet

putting the film together was to help inspire people to see a way forward for the isle.

She said: "People talk about trying to regenerate Thanet, but we can only really do that if we understand something of the area's past. I think these films help do just that."

"It has changed out of all recognition and I wanted to show how much it has been altered, not always for the good."

"I know a lot of people will look at this film and have lots of memories sparked of how it used to be before the developers built so many homes and other buildings."

"Many people love looking back to the way things were and using a lot of archive material we are able to paint a picture of a happier Thanet from decades ago."

The screening has been organised by the Thanet Film Society and will be followed by a discussion.

Entry is £5 for non-members, £4 for members and happens at 5pm on Sunday, at the Palace Cinema, Harbour Street, Broadstairs.

IN LAST week's report headlined: 'More sex offenders on register 'sign of better detection and control', we referred to the case of convicted rapist James Donoghue.

We wrongly reported that Donoghue was a former inmate of Maidstone prison and that he

was a registered sex offender at the time he attacked a woman in her home.

In fact Donoghue was never an inmate at that prison and had originally been jailed for violent offences. We are happy to set the record straight.

Do you want to find out more about your local provider of NHS Community Services?

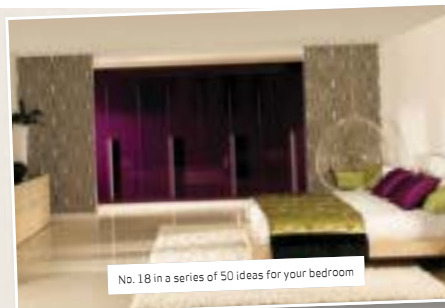
A Board Meeting held in public will take place on:  
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- A signer will be available on the day
- Copies of the Agenda and papers will be available from Sheppey Community Hospital one week before the Board Meeting. They will also be available on our website, please visit [www.eckcommunityservices.nhs.uk](http://www.eckcommunityservices.nhs.uk)

For questions relating to the agenda please contact:

**Pauline Gardiner**  
Corporate Services Manager  
Tel: 01227 795037  
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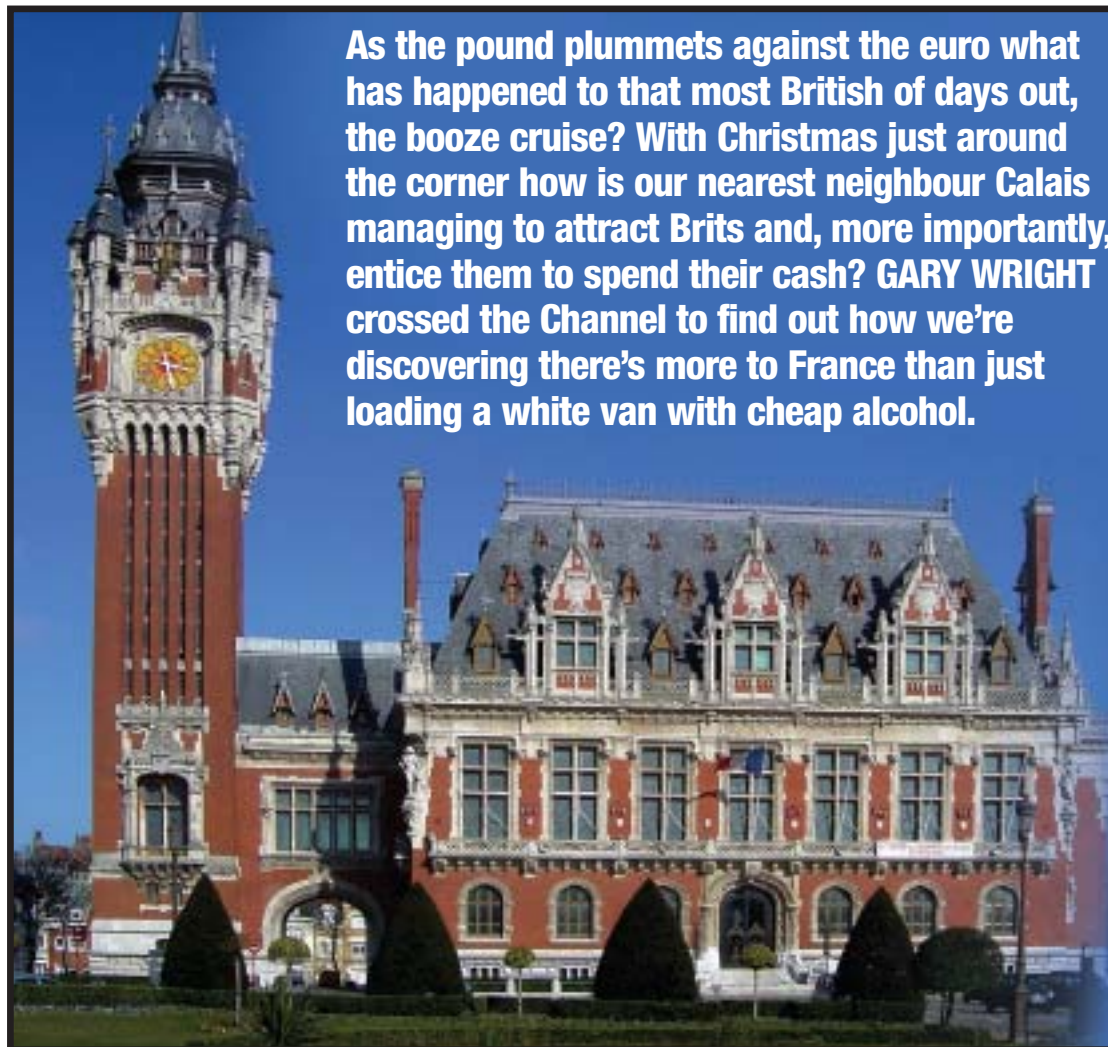
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As the pound plummets against the euro what has happened to that most British of days out, the booze cruise? With Christmas just around the corner how is our nearest neighbour Calais managing to attract Brits and, more importantly, entice them to spend their cash? GARY WRIGHT crossed the Channel to find out how we're discovering there's more to France than just loading a white van with cheap alcohol.

# Reversing

AS OUR country struggles to keep its head above water under a tidal wave of debt and bank bailouts, the French are confidently out of recession, their shops remain busy... and they still work shorter hours.

I admire the French and, if I'm honest, envy them a little – but more of that later.

It is a fantastic country, but the British relationship with our nearest foreign neighbour is going through a difficult transition thanks to the collapse of the value of the pound.

Britain's favourite French destination may be Paris, but Calais is where most of us in Kent get our fix of French shopping. To try and understand more I visited Calais last week and it quickly became clear that, in their eyes, Brits have become the poor relation of Europe.

Remember the days when something costing 10 euros meant parting with around seven quid? Well, that's over.

Gordon Brown and his financial chums at the Bank of England have done a favour for the numerically dyslexic (you know who you are) by doing away with the need to stand gazing in a shop desperately struggling to convert currency.

Today one euro means one pound, give or take. Easy on the mind then, but it means when we visit our foreign cousins it is set to be an expensive business for, well I'm no economist but I'd guess 10 years.

And it's clear Calais has had a bit of relief from Les rosbifs on a day trip.

Instead we are seeing more and more French shoppers coming to Kent, making the most of the new exchange rate, to enjoy spectacular value for money. For example, clothing now has prices in both pounds and euros. So a £20 item may well sell for 30 euros in France – but with the current 1:1 rate the French are laughing all the way to le banque.

One French family visiting Canterbury on a sunny Saturday two weeks ago told our reporter it was their second day-trip this year and they couldn't believe how far their money went.

They were unable to name one item they had seen which was actually more expensive than their home country (they obvi-



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# the day-tripping trend

ously weren't cigar smokers) and raved about the value of clothing.

Back in Calais though, this is bad news for the British entrepreneurs who took the plunge years ago and set up wine warehouses a few hundred yards from the ferry port.

Speaking to Brits aboard the cross-Channel ferry, it's evident people are no longer flocking to the pile-it-high sell-it-cheap booze outlets on the industrial estates like they used to.

One told me he believed it had been a "soul-sapping experience" anyway, that had peaked regardless of the exchange rate.

"The exchange rate might have killed it but our supermarkets have smartened up their act on booze deals and besides, most day trippers are looking for a day out," he said.

Calais has changed since my last stop-over visit five years ago. Yes, there was still evidence of illegals, who inhabited the 'jungle' despite armed cops kicking them out a month ago in a much-publicised clampdown on the 'problem'.

While the 'jungle' was really some overgrown abandoned warehouses, I was still shocked to see 30 young men being given soup in a car park less than 400 yards (or should that be metres) from the port. But the town looked prosperous and successful.

Calais has a love-hate relationship with Britain. The people have always made day-trippers welcome and ensured it's easy to spend your cash on the French staples (booze, fags and cheese). But they must get frustrated with some of the dithering drivers delivered to their roads and the asylum seekers littering their streets waiting for the chance to hide in a lorry bound for Dover.

Walking the streets at the docks end of the town, there was not a ferme or solde sign to be seen in shop windows and townsfolk the fol-



**A WIDE APPEAL:** With attractions such as the striking Hotel de Ville, left, and welcoming Frenchmen like Arnaud Crespo in his Maison du Fromage et des Vins, there's still lots to draw us Brits over to Calais

lowing day at the Saturday market were weighed down with bags full of food (though the queues at the little supermarket were slowed significantly thanks to the continued French love affair with the cheque book).

During my visit to Calais I dined in top-notch restaurants. The Histoire Ancienne looked as though you would part with 50 or 60 euros per person. You can if you wish, but they do a set lunchtime menu for 12.50. Now that's an attraction.

And then there's the spectacular Restaurant Grand Bleu and Le Channel. Take my recommendation by all means – Calais is a bit of gourmet's delight – but better still take a look for yourself; there are dozens of great eateries.

Calais is also home to the Maison du Fromage et des Vins. It's run by Arnaud Crespo, one of the top three sommeliers in France.

The hypermarkets are having a tough ride attracting the British shopper, but at places like Carrefour, the vast hypermarket in the Cite Europe shopping centre, the choice is staggering. It offered 150 different Champagnes alone and 800 different wines.

Calais remains a delight. While there I popped in to its new showpiece attraction, which traces the history of lace making in Calais – the Cite de la Dentelle. It blends modern architecture with a former 19th century lace-making factory to remember the industry that made Calais rich a century ago.

It's great but here's the interesting part: and, in the best French tradition, it cost 30 million euros, of mainly EU money.

And when it come to making the most of European money, that's something the French will always seem to be better at than us Brits.

## All aboard for cheaper deals on the ferries

THE strong euro is bad for bargain hunting in France, but onboard ships, shopping deals can still be spectacular.

At ferry giant P&O, bookings are up according to company spokesman Brian Rees, who believes company names you can trust, and value for money, will always attract customers. And six million people agree so far this year.

He said: "A Dover-Calais day trip for a car and all the occupants is £25. That's a lot of people to buy on board our ships."

"We're a UK-based company, we bank in sterling so if you pay for items with us in pounds the strength of the euro is irrelevant. We sell on board at the lower French rates of duty."

It's a big company too, so you can find huge savings. Examples: Jacob's Creek wine, six bottles for £15. Or two litres of Courvoisier cognac, £35. They'll even pack your car for you.

So is this the end of the French day trip or the good old-fashioned booze cruise as we used to say? Well, yes and no.

Cheap drink is no longer the sole reason to go. But there are bargains to be found and the French still know how to live well.

Calais' future lies with its attraction as a French destination, and that's why people are going for a night or two rather than the day.

Chris and Sharron Smith from Faversham were returning home after a weekend away.

Mr Smith said: "We've been visiting for years and while the cost has gone up, Calais remains somewhere that offers us Brits a slice of the French lifestyle, right on our doorstep."

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## Biker's African world record bid

AN ADVENTURER has set off to become the first person ever to circumnavigate the African coast by motorbike.

It is a trip fraught with danger, and Spencer Conway said he will be skipping around trouble-torn Somalia.

The explorer, 42, who has already circled the world several times, said he hopes to set a new world record with the trip, as he will be the first to take it on.

Spencer set out last Sunday from his home in Biddenden on the epic voyage that will take in 28 countries and cover more than 40,000 kilometres.

He is leaving his wife Cathy behind, along with their daughters Jez, 14, and Feaya, 12, for at least seven months and maybe as long as a year.

Spencer said: "Cathy is not too happy, but she knows what I am like and is behind me."

"This has been a lifelong ambition for me. I was brought up in Swaziland until I was 18 and moved to Britain."

"During the expedition I will be up against a variety of difficult terrains, and things can change so fast in Africa."

The trip is costing Spencer £20,000, which he saved by doing extra work on top of teaching English. He said: "I am doing this to raise money for Save the Children, so any backing from readers would be brilliant."

He has received Royal backing with a phone call from Prince Harry, who pledged support.

The Yamaha XT660 bike he is using is specially designed for off-road use.



Spencer Conway

# Parents' pain as photos of dead son are stolen

By **MARIJKE COX**

marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

A COUPLE have been left devastated after two laptops containing irreplaceable pictures of their dead baby son were stolen.

Claire Stratton, 22, and her partner Piers Harbour, 36, are now pleading with thieves to return the pictures, which were the only ones taken of 18-week-old Leo.

The burglary took place on Saturday, October 24, in Newbridge Avenue, Sittingbourne, between 1-5pm, when the family were out in Ramsgate.

Claire said: "It's heartbreaking. These were the only pictures we had of him and I don't know whether we'll ever get them back."

"There were pictures of my other two children on the laptops, too, but the loss of Leo's ones hurts the most."

Claire was 18 weeks pregnant with Leo when she suffered a miscarriage and had to go through the trauma of a natural birth.

"I went in for a scan, but something wasn't right. I had miscarried and had to give birth to him," she said.

"We took pictures of him straight after he was born – they're the only reminders we have of Leo except our own memories."

"I'm begging whoever it is that has the laptops to give them back to us."

"I don't want to know who you are – I real-



**FAMILY APPEAL:**  
Piers Harbour and  
Claire Stratton  
with their children  
Bailey and  
Phoenix

ly don't care about that – all I want is the pictures of our baby son back."

"If somebody is sold the laptops, then please can they get in contact too."

A video camera with recordings of the couple's other children, two-year-old Bailey and 11-month-old Phoenix, were also taken.

Father Piers said the family were desperate to get the stolen belongings back.

He said: "These items hold great sentimental value to us and we just want them returned as soon as possible."

"We kept all of our photos of our son Leo on the computer and we have nothing left to remember him by."

A Fuji camera and Nintendo Wii were among the items also stolen in the burglary.

Claire pleaded with anyone who comes across the two Acer laptops to get in contact with the police. "The keys are worn on one of them and when you log in it brings up a picture of Bailey and Phoenix sitting in a pram," she said.

Contact Kent Police on 01795 419182.

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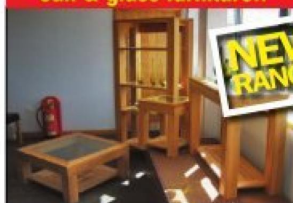
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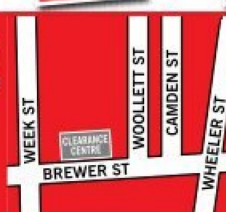
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By **CHRIS MURPHY**

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

**FEARS** over the threat of flooding on sites being swamped by new housing developments have prompted a special appeal.

Kent firefighters are asking for the public's help in shaping the future of the emergency service.

It said new large-scale developments in housing, retail and transport can come with environmental risks from extreme weather and floods.

Kent Fire and Rescue Service said it needs to begin planning for those changes now – and it wants local people to get involved with shaping the future.

Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority chairman, Bryan Cope said: "Kent Fire and Rescue Service works around the clock, 365 days a year dealing with fires, road traffic collisions and other emergencies, such as floods, explosions and chemical incidents.

### Risks

"It offers a first class service to the residents of Kent and Medway, but to remain an excellent service we must make sure we look at the changes expected in the county and plan for emerging risks.

"We want to ensure everyone has the chance to be involved in shaping fire and rescue provision for the coming years, so I would urge you to get involved."

Its Making Kent Safer plan for 2010-13 has been published for consultation.

Some of the issues it examines are the changes in local communities that pose additional fire risks, such as increasing numbers of vulnerable people living alone and more people in shared rented housing.

### Injured

On traffic and collisions, KFRS attends 1,200 road traffic collisions and rescues every year. And with traffic predicted to increase over the coming years, accidents could also rise.

The service said: "We are working with partners to reduce the number of people killed and seriously injured on the roads."

And on development, with 112,800 new homes planned to be built by 2026, the service is looking ahead now to gauge where those centres of population will be and to provide adequate cover.

New building materials and construc-

# Emergency call for your help from firefighters

tion are also changing risks both for buildings and firefighters.

The Environment Agency is forecasting higher flood risks for some parts of the county due to extreme weather, and KFRS said it needs to be ready to respond.

A spokesman said: "We are also doing our bit

for the environment by reducing carbon emissions through fuel and energy savings.

"We want to improve our advice for small businesses to support the local economy, and also pursue efficiency savings to keep our part of the council tax down."

Residents are being encouraged to share

their thoughts through a questionnaire, available in local libraries, online or by calling 01622 692121.

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WE HAVE teamed up with The Range to offer you the chance of winning an amazing £500 of vouchers to spend in its store – perfect timing for your Christmas shopping.

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recently made it onto the prestigious HSBC Top Track 250, which lists Britain's biggest private companies.

The Range, which opened in the Dockside Outlet Centre in Chatham on May 1, has 40 stores around the country and is the perfect destination for all your Christmas needs.

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To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to The Range Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. The closing date is November 30, 2009.

**Question: Where in Chatham is The Range store located?**

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If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.



**SUPER SPUDS:** TV presenter Gizzi Erskine is backing farmer Matt Spanton's campaign

## Rice and pasta mashed away by best spuds

A FARMER is leading the charge to get the potato back on our dinner plates and give the boot to rice and pasta, **writes Chris Murphy.**

The humble spud is being rebranded a 'super-carb', and the Potato Council is making hay with claims it is far better for us than many other carbohydrates.

Matt Spanton is a major producer of potatoes for supermarkets.

He said: "We farm around 3,500 acres from Faversham outwards, and 150 of those are dedicated to potatoes. We grow the red Desiree, King Edward which is a good all-rounder, along with Estima and Melody, which are both brilliant for baking.

"But the potato is so much more than just a decent food. It is far better for us than rice and pasta because of all the vitamins and minerals it contains. It is being called a super-carb, and it really is.

"The main thing is that the potato is not fattening, which is a major factor these days with many worrying about their weight."

From the middle of one of his potato fields,

he said: "The potato is full of fibre and a lot more vitamins than rice and pasta, which are just a standard feed but without the nutrients potatoes have. There are vitamin Bs and Cs and a cross-section of fibre in the potato which should be eaten with the skin, of course, so there is no waste."

As part of the campaign, the Potato Council said it is important people understand spuds have carbohydrates with all the benefits of being a vegetable.

Mr Spanton said consumption needs to be increased again for the good the nation's health, particularly among the young.

He said: "The potato's rich carbohydrate content often overshadows its vegetable status. Potatoes are undoubtedly a 'supercarb'; they are packed full of energy, vitamins and minerals and fibre, and naturally fat free."

Cook and TV presenter Gizzi Erskine added: "I love potatoes. I think the term 'super-carb' really captures all the goodness in potatoes and would help consumers to have a better understanding of this fantastically versatile vegetable.

"Not only are they packed full of nutrients, but they are so easy to cook with, too."

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## Student bravery

A LANDSCAPE management student at Hadlow College is to receive an award from Cumbria Police for saving the life of a woman.

Mark Boddington, along with a group of fellow students and his tutor Richard Tilley, was on a study tour of Cumbria last year.

They were crossing a bridge over the M6 when they noticed a woman climbing over the barrier on the other side of the road.

The woman was about to jump to her death on the motorway below – but Mark talked her down and his brave action is to be recognised with an award presented by the police.

## OAP dies in crash

AN ELDERLY woman has died in a car crash in the Barleys Meadow area of Westerham.

The 84-year-old was driving a Citroen C3 near the Russell House doctors' surgery at 10.50am on Tuesday when she was involved in a collision with a stationary Mitsubishi Space Wagon.

She was pronounced dead at the scene.

The woman's family has been informed and an investigation by Kent Police's Serious Collision Investigation Unit is under way.

## Tiers of NHS help

WEST Kent residents are helping to shape services for people with complex or severe personality disorder.

Between April and July, 62 primary care trusts across the south of England, including NHS West Kent, asked people to have their say in a consultation.

More than 370 people and organisations shared their views, which will be used to help develop 'Tier 4' services for people with the most complex personality disorders.

An NHS committee will meet on November 11 at the Law Society in London to consider and plan the next steps for development of the services.

By **MARIJKE COX**

marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

A CHARITY that helps the county's victims of sexual assault has criticised comments made by a leading academic about the link between heavy drinking and rape.

Malcolm Gilbert of Family Matters, said Dr Adam Burgess' suggestions in last week's newspaper that women should be more concerned about how much they drink rather than date rape drugs like Rohypnol, could make victims feel they are to blame.

Dr Burgess, based at the University of Kent's school of social policy, sociology and social research, said: "They think they have been the victim of a spiked alcoholic drink, when in fact they have just drunk too much."

His study, published in the British Journal of Criminology, found that three quarters of students identified drink spiking as an important risk, more so than alcohol.

### Responsible

He claimed, however, that studies have shown drink spiking is a myth.

Dr Burgess added: "It would be far better if they simply didn't drink too much in the first place so they were able to maintain control."

But Mr Gilbert from Gravesend-based Family Matters said women should not be made to feel responsible for a rape, even if they have been drinking.

"Drink doesn't rape people, rapists rape people," he said.

"I'm not concerned with the findings of Dr Burgess' study about date rape drugs being a myth, but by talking about women drinking 'too much' it suggests they are partly to blame."

"If someone who has been drinking is robbed in the street, the fact that they have been drinking is not taken into account."

"But if a woman is raped when she is drunk, often she is made to feel that she is

# Rape charity's anger at 'drunk women' claims



**ON THE TOWN:** But will a woman be blamed if she is attacked after a night out?

somehow to blame for the attack."

According to Government figures, only 15 per cent of rapes are reported each year.

Mr Gilbert said he believes the low figure is down to victims feeling guilty about the incident, especially if they had been drinking.

"The point is a rapist will take advantage of someone who is in a vulnerable state," he said.

"As a society it is time we turned our condemnation towards men who rape – many of

whom are serial rapists – and not their victims who have quite enough to contend with.

"At Family Matters we will see over 250 rape victims this year. Nearly a third of those will be girls of 12-16, few of those drunk."

"It is my submission around 2,500 women are raped in Kent every year – year on year."

"Let's concern ourselves with that shocking stat and stop blaming the victims so more women can be encouraged to report their rape in the full knowledge they will not be condemned by society."

"Perhaps then we can get more rapists convicted and keep the women of Kent safer."

Family Matters also helps the adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse.

Det Supt Paul Fotheringham, head of Kent Police's public protection unit, said the force takes every allegation of rape seriously.

"No consent means no sex," he said.

"We would encourage people to report offences at the earliest opportunity."

"Our specially trained officers will work with the victim and put them in touch with others, including Family Matters, so that together we can help them work through this kind of traumatic experience."

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# Beware the hidden killer

By **MARIJKE COX**

marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

A HARD-hitting campaign has been launched across the county to warn tradesmen about the dangers of asbestos.

Dubbed 'Britain's hidden killer', asbestos-related diseases account for 20 deaths a week in industrial professions in the UK.

Figures revealed by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) show Medway has one of Britain's highest concentrations of deaths from mesothelioma – a terminal cancer caused by breathing in the deadly asbestos fibres – with 265 male deaths between 1981 and 2005.

The HSE has now launched the Asbestos: The Hidden Killer campaign in Kent, targeting people most at risk, including plumbers, joiners and electricians.

Heather Bryant, HSE regional director for the South East, said it is vital to ensure people realise the dangers.

"Asbestos-related illnesses claim the lives of 4,000 people every year – more than die in road accidents," she said. "It is Britain's biggest industrial killer."

"The most simple but important advice is, if you are not 100 per cent certain that



**DEADLY:** Roger Blackman, left, died following his exposure to asbestos, and now Jack Rekert and his wife are suffering the effects and urge others to take care on site

there is no asbestos where you are working, then don't start work."

Tradesmen working on a building put up or refurbished before the year 2000 could be at risk, with around 500,000 non-domestic buildings containing asbestos.

One Maidstone woman who knows only too

well the dangers is Sandra Blackman. She lost her husband Roger in 2004, just five weeks after he was diagnosed with mesothelioma.

Mr Blackman worked as a carpenter and joiner all his life, but had no training or advice about the risks of working with asbestos.

Mrs Blackman, who is backing the cam-

paign, said: "I can see that young people today would find it hard to make the link between the work they do now and an illness they may get in 40 years time, but it is important that they understand. There is so much to lose."

Another former tradesman, Jack Rekert, from Gravesend, is also fully aware of the dangers of asbestos after being diagnosed with mesothelioma in 2007.

He is now on a 21-day chemotherapy cycle and needs to have radiation therapy for a suspected secondary tumour on his back.

The former electrician said he was exposed to asbestos in 1985 during a three-day refurbishment project. He was told there was no risk, despite questioning the builder in charge.

Mr Rekert is supporting the HSE campaign and said employers should be more vigilant.

• **For more about the campaign visit** [www.hse.gov.uk/hiddenkiller](http://www.hse.gov.uk/hiddenkiller).

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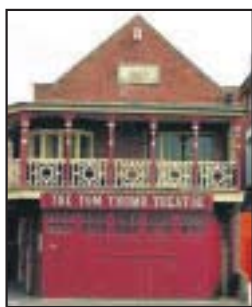
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## Big future planned for a tiny theatre

ONE of the world's smallest theatres, which was almost lost before a life-saving sale was agreed, has announced a new season of productions.

The Tom Thumb Theatre, with just 60 red velvet seats, is re-launching in December with a host of shows.

New co-owner of the Cliftonville theatre, Jessica Jordan-Wrench hopes the season will place the Tom Thumb back at the heart of the community.

And it includes a festive show called A Dreamland Sideshow Christmas on the 10ft by 7ft stage.

The former coach house was built in 1896 and was originally turned into a double garage before it emerged as a theatre in the 1980s.

The last curtain fell in 2005 with a performance of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

Theatrical agent Lesley Parr-Byrne was the previous owner and after she died in 2006, it was put up for auction, selling for around £130,000.

The building's exterior is influenced by Japanese and Alpine architecture. Ms Jordan-Wrench said: "We are

working hard to renovate the building and are excited at getting this theatre back up and running.

"It is an important local feature and deserves to succeed."

She said the Christmas show follows impresario Sven Jolly, who uses a holiday theme in his sideshow with a band of oddities including Meredith the Margate Mermaid, George the Werefox, and The Fortune Teller.

She said: "The show will be part promenade, part fair, part circus, and all theatrical."

# River's industrial past preserved

A NEW book exploring the history of industry along the River Medway has been published as part of a nationwide project aimed at bringing local history to life.

The *Medway Valley: A Kent Landscape Transformed*, written by Dr Andrew Hann, was launched with a celebratory cruise along the Medway for all those involved in its production.

The book, which was written as part of the local history publisher Victoria County History's *England's Past for Everyone* (EPE) project, looks at the history of the area from 1750-1900.

It explores the impact the rise and decline of industries had on communities on the River Medway, including shipbuilding, papermaking and agriculture.

The book is backed by the University of Greenwich – where author Dr Hann led the project – Kent Archaeological Society Kent County Council, and the City of Rochester Society.

Dr Hann said: "The project owes so much to

By **MARIJKE COX**

[marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk)

the hard work of the dedicated team of volunteers and the support of the wider community who have embraced the project with enthusiasm from its outset.

"Hopefully, this book will play a part in preserving the memory of the Medway's industrial heritage as it moves towards an exciting future as part of the Thames Gateway development."

### Inspire

Officials behind the *England's Past for Everyone* programme are currently working with academics and communities on a series of paperback history books.

A spokesperson said: "The research will result in an interactive website and 15 paperback books, which will provide an insight into the way history is investigated and inspire people to do their own research."

"The website will contain images, audio visuals and historical documents.

"EPE is also working with schools to produce curriculum materials."

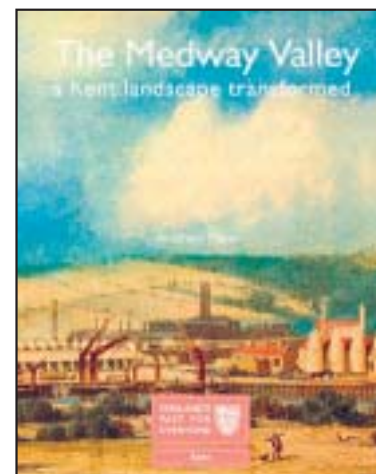
In Kent, volunteers took part in a series of building surveys in Medway's villages and were given training in archive research, photography, data recording and ICT skills.

The Centre for Kentish Studies and the Holy Family School in Maidstone also worked with education consultant Jessika Worrall to look at the lives of children working in the papermaking industry in the 19th century.

Ms Worrall said: "The project was excellent for everybody involved and I do hope projects such as this continue as it provides so many ideas and inspiration for all taking part."

The Heritage Lottery Fund has given a grant of £3.4 million towards the nationwide project and English Heritage has provided 510 photographs.

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INDUSTRIAL PAST: The book on Medway

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## Dancer lights up the celebrations

ROYAL Ballet principal dancer Roberta Marquez joined the National Trust to turn on the Christmas lights at Chartwell.

The Brazilian ballerina took part in the celebrations on Wednesday to mark the start of the winter season at the former home of Sir Winston Churchill.

Two of the war leader's daughters, Diana and Sarah, were keen ballerinas, and this winter a painting of the two of them in their tutus, by Charles Sims, is being conserved thanks to a donation from the Beckenham and Bromley National Trust Association.

Chartwell visitor services manager Phoebe Vincent said: "Turning on the Christmas lights seemed the perfect way to kick off our winter season at Chartwell."

## School damaged

POLICE are appealing for information about an incident of criminal damage at Benenden CofE Primary School in Benenden, Cranbrook, during half term.

Eight window panes at the front of the school building were smashed, causing an estimated £800 of damage.

Some wooden posts had been moved and a number of footballs had been taken from the PE shed and left in the playground.

## Foreign education

SOME 45 young people from Kent, Estonia, Finland, Germany and Poland travelled to Mözen in Germany last week for the third part of the 4Way Exchange project.

The trip included events to promote greater knowledge of each other's cultures.

# Author's staunch defence of his social work colleagues

By **MARIJKE COX**

marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

A WRITER has defended the country's social workers, claiming they face unwarranted criticism despite helping thousands of people each year.

Declan Henry's comments follow the success of his book, *Glimpses*, which looks at disaffected teenagers and the reasons behind their behaviour.

The book, which was first published in 2007, is to be reprinted in January along with his new novel *Buried Deep in my Heart* which tells the story of his childhood in Ireland.

The 46-year-old, from Gillingham, is a registered social worker for Kent County Council.

*Glimpses* – which he says is not based on true accounts of people he has worked with – is a collection of 26 stories about disaffected teens. It gives a disturbing snapshot of youngsters dealing with issues such as sexual abuse and self-harming, classed as social problems.

Mr Henry said: "I couldn't use real-life cases through my job, but the issues are true to life.

"I wrote it to educate the public about troubled young people in society, highlighting the reasons behind their behaviour, such as bad parenting and abuse.

"I wanted to make readers aware of what a terrible time some of these young people are having and how unfair life can be for them.

"These teenagers aren't bad – they're prod-



**BELIEF:** Declan Henry has defended social workers following the case of Baby Peter

ucts of bad life circumstances. With the right kind of support and education they can get that belief in themselves back."

The book has been well received by other social workers, police and academics, which led to the call for it to be reprinted.

Mr Henry, who became a social worker after working with homeless people in London in the 1990s, said he hopes the book will also teach readers more about his profession, which has come in for much criticism following the brutal death of Baby Peter in London.

He said: "Social workers get an extremely bad time and come under a lot of criticism.

"If they make a mistake everyone criticises them, but the thousands of good things they do go unnoticed. It's a rewarding career and I'm very happy with my job. It's hard sometimes though when we're given a bad name."

Mr Henry is now focusing on the release of his new book *Buried Deep in my Heart*, which looks at the first 18 years of his life growing up in County Sligo in Ireland.

"It's a million miles away from my life as a social worker," he said. "It comes out in January at the same time as the reprint of *Glimpses*."

• See [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk) to order copies of his books.

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# Let's follow the young example

**In his latest column, celebrity chef and restaurant owner RICHARD PHILLIPS takes a look at how the next generation to enter the kitchen give him hope for the future.**

ONE of the fun parts of my job is getting to work with young and aspiring chefs.

And recently I have had a couple of occasions where I have been impressed by the quality, passion and innovation coming from young people who want a career in catering in some form.

I was invited to open the new kitchen training facility at the New School at West Heath, Sevenoaks. The school provides

much needed care and support for children from a disadvantaged background; all of the children at the school will already have experienced severe trauma in their relatively short lives.

The facility provides a stable base for them to gain the confidence and experience to progress in life.

The ability of young people to bring enthusiasm and creativity to whatever they do never ceases to amaze me and it is something I am looking forward to as my own children grow up, but for the young people at West Heath coming from such a disadvantaged start, it was even more impressive.

At the school I met Steven, he is 15 and has already gained an A\* in GCSE food preparation and is impressing the team at the Marriot in Westminster, where he has been cooking as part of the school's work experience programme.

The enthusiasm and skills he has already obtained will make him a definite candidate as a future chef in the making. The new kitchen training area will give Steven and the Stevens of the future a vital boost in life.

My other recent involvement with talented young chefs has been as a judge of the Kent Young Chef award, where the level and standard of entrants is very encouraging for the future of Kent's restaurant and food service industries.

It is clear that many children are drawing creativity and enthusiasm from watching chefs on TV and through increased interest in food preparation at home.

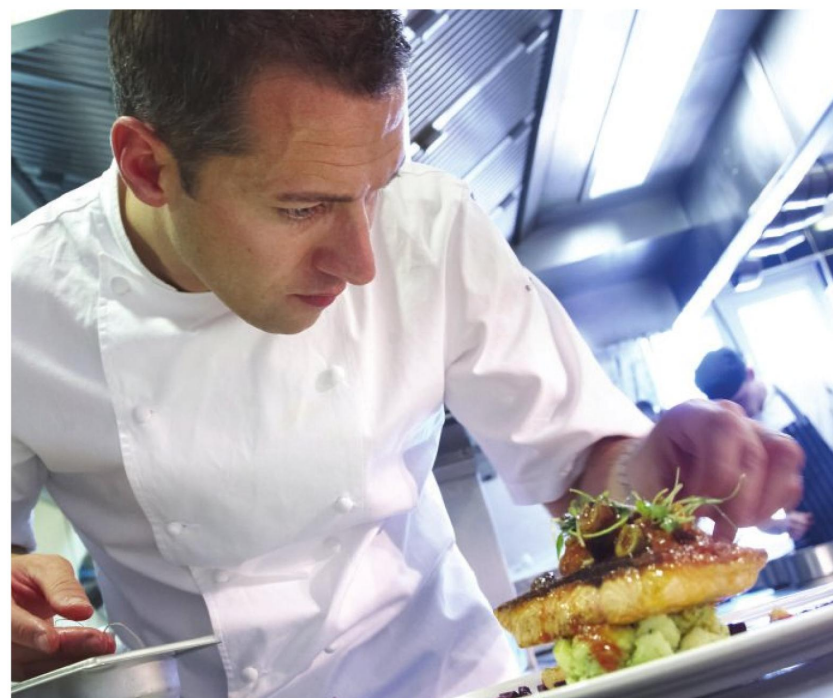
There is an excellent idea behind the Kent Young Chef award and that is to not only highlight the talents of our up and coming young chefs but also to teach them about using local and seasonal produce. Each of the young people entering the competition had to devise a recipe using seasonal foods.

We received well over 100 entries for the competition from the two age groups; making picking out four winners to be placed in the final cook-off a fun but challenging exercise.

Eventually we narrowed down the entrants and now I am looking forward to hosting the live cook-off final at Thanet College during late November. I learned the ropes at the college and am well versed in their catering course and facilities.

I know Christmas still seems a long way away for many, but on Sunday, November 29, I am going to be at Leeds Castle starting a charity race with all the entrants dressed as Father Christmas. The Santa Fun Run is being held in aid of Cystic Fibrosis and the event will be a fun and colourful spectacle for all the family.

It's still not too late to enter ([www.cftrust.org.uk/help/events/santaleeds](http://www.cftrust.org.uk/help/events/santaleeds)) and join in the fun which will aid research into a desperately needed cure for the debilitating disease which affects so many young people.



The arrival of November also heralds the coming of winter and a return for many to many perennial favourites which are grown in the Garden of England.

This month the seasonal box from Food for Kent is packed with a selection of produce which once again shows the diversity of not only what we grow in the county but also how the changing seasons influence the availability of our produce, especially our game and fishing supplies. The box contains purple headed broccoli, leaf spinach, carrots and a range of potatoes accompanied with pigeon and squid.

So the thought of winter foods being boring or restricted is far from the truth, and while many people are put off from experimenting with unknown game or seafood they should take comfort in knowing that these really are not that difficult to prepare in relation to chicken, pork or other seafood.

Being bold with food is something our young chefs have shown an abundance of talent for, and not being afraid to try new dishes or tastes is part of what makes cooking so exciting.

So maybe we should be prepared to take a leaf out of our fearlessly creative young chefs' books and try something new, local and seasonal for November.

*Richard Phillips*



**HOT STUFF:** Richard Phillips was particularly impressed by young chef Steven during a visit to the New School at West Heath, Sevenoaks, to open a new training kitchen



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Pictures: ANTHONY UPTON

**REMARKABLE:** The finds at Lullingstone villa are from what is thought to be the earliest Christian site in the country, and include a striking 4th century mosaic floor

# Archaeologist is reunited with history

By **CHRIS MURPHY**

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

ONE of Kent's most important archaeological digs was at Lullingstone villa, and last week saw a reunion of the men behind its discovery.



One of them was Brian Philp, an archaeologist who went on to establish the Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit, which specialises in saving important sites from developers.

On Friday he and several others who worked on the Lullingstone dig met at the villa to reminisce.

The Roman villa in Lullingstone Lane, Eynsford, remains open to the public and is a major attraction in the area.

It is 60 years since the beginning of the project to unearth the remains of the magnificent Roman villa.

Among those attending the event were archaeologist, author and director of the Roman Building Trust, Dr Tony Rook, who was among those working on the excavations from 1949 when he was a Sevenoaks schoolboy, plus Gerald Cramp and Derek Gerrard, who both still live in the area.

Relatives of one of the dig's founder members, Edwyn Birchenough, were also present.

Last year, hundreds of artefacts which have been unseen since the 1950s went on display at Lullingstone following a £1.3m refurbishment. They included rare gaming counters, a skeleton in an embossed lead coffin, and hundreds of everyday items.

They are on display together with a variety of rooms and Lullingstone's famous 4th century mosaic floor, depicting scenes from ancient mythology.

Mr Philp, from Bromley, was involved in finding the Roman Painted House, along with 30 other digs under Dover and 25 in Darent Valley. In all he said he has worked on more than 300 sites.

He said Lullingstone is important because it is one of the earliest sites to be found in Kent: "This villa is important nationally because of the two mosaic floors which are very fine and Christian wall paintings, making this probably the earliest Christian site in the country."

"The Romans used to paint murals in most of their major buildings and these depict a big circle with a Chi-Rho monogram, which is a standard Christian symbol still used today with a letter X and a letter P."

Of the reunion, he said: "There are not many survivors now, I think there are only 10 left. The dig started in 1949 and I joined in 1952 while I was still at school. I did 10 years which is when the excavation ended."

"Lullingstone is one of the most important I have worked on because it was so pioneering. No-one was a trained archaeologist in the 50s, we learned by joining in and picking up the techniques ourselves."

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## KENT ON SUNDAY

COMMENT

### Poppy Appeal as relevant as ever

WHEN the Poppy Appeal was launched in November, 1921, it was to support servicemen who were injured fighting in World War One.

But over the years it has benefited so many more than that, including those involved in present day conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The news this week of five British soldiers gunned down by a rogue Afghan policeman they were training only drives home just how dangerous a task our troops face, and how much they depend on our support.

Regardless of people's views on whether or not the UK should even be involved in the conflicts, these men and women are fighting for our country and we must never forget that.

Thankfully, neither the organisers of the Poppy Appeal nor those who donate millions let politics get in the way of compassion.

Today may be Remembrance Sunday, but that does not mean we should only think about those who died in battle years ago. The money we donate will help hundreds of troops who are injured but still very much alive.

### Scally v Fergie

DURING his reign as Gillingham FC boss, Paul Scally has shown no fear in standing up to people or upsetting them when he has to.

But during that time he can have spoken to few with as fierce a reputation as Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson, whom he called this week to tie up the Gills' loan move for 20-year-old striker Febian Brandy.

Who wouldn't have wanted to be a fly on the wall during that conversation?

## OPINION:

KCC leader Paul Carter proposes an expansion of grammar school places in the west of the county, to be balanced by a reduction in places in the east.

This is designed to reduce the pressure on places in the west and avoid the prohibition in the statutory Code of Practice for School Admissions.

This forbids local authorities and the schools adjudicator from allowing grammars to expand.

In the recent Kent Test, there were 5,137 successful candidates, with only 4,458 grammar places available. However, while not all out-of-county successes will take up places, there will once again be pressure in west and north-west Kent. If the county is to keep its selective system, action needs to be taken. Reasons why this pressure is increasing year on year (in no particular order):

- This year, 993 out-of-county applicants passed the Kent Test. While this is a reduction of 105 on last year, it still represents substantial pressure on the system. Some of these families will now move house into west Kent to ensure a grammar place and so will not show up in the statistics later in the year.

- The coaching culture in west Kent. This has an incalculable effect in shifting the balance of passes westwards. I have no simple solution, except to note that while state schools are forbidden to coach for the Kent Test, many private schools depend on coach-

## Selection pressure points

### Peter Read tries to square the circle of west Kent's grammar place shortage



ing for the 11-plus. Perhaps it is time to level the playing field.

- Super selection. Tonbridge Grammar, Skinners and Judd award places to high scorers no matter where they live. In north-west Kent, the decision of Dartford Grammar to give priority to high scorers after all those in the borough who have passed the Kent Test saw 55 places offered to boys in London boroughs, a trend that will increase.

- Credit crunch. Parents are looking at the good value offered by grammars as distinct from independent schools. I believe the proportion of applicants to grammars from private prep schools in west Kent is increasing.

- Greenwich Judgement. A High Court judgement that states catchment areas and oversubscription criteria could not follow political boundaries. This prohibition was removed by the recent Code of Practice for Admissions, as confirmed by a judgement earlier this year by the schools adjudicator. It has been underlined by another decision for Dartford Girls' Grammar that gives priority to Kent families.

Possible solutions:

- Cllr Carter's solution. The legality of this has yet to be established. Already two east Kent grammars, Chatham House and Clarendon House, have reduced their intake for 2010 from 120 to 90 apiece as they have become federated. As this has already been agreed, I doubt they would be counted.

It is a fallacy that there are lots of spare places in east Kent grammars. Many are heavily oversubscribed. In my judgement, the only two where there is the possibility of removing a form of entry without creating further pressures are Folkestone School for Girls and Harvey Grammar in Folkestone.

However, if two forms of entry are created for west Kent schools, where should they be placed? They should be committed to giving priority to Kent parents – it would be pointless to create extra places for out-of-county children. The two schools most in the frame would be Judd (12 per cent out-of-county) and Weald of Kent Grammar (already giving priority to locals and well away from

the county boundary).

- An alternative would be to encourage the schools most affected to change their oversubscription criteria to give priority to Kent parents, solving the problem more simply. The removal of the Greenwich Judgement makes this a possibility. Skinners School, just three miles from the county boundary, argues this would result in a house price hike, but priority across Kent (or west Kent) would neutralise this.

Last March, there was enormous interest in the number of west Kent boys allocated grammar places in Sittingbourne or Folkestone, with girls going to Wilmington, Gravesend and Maidstone. Since then, the problem has largely faded away. Successful appeals, children taking up places in private schools, others resigning themselves to travelling ensured that, somehow or other, the problem has been solved for another year. Until March, 2010, arrives and we begin all over again.

• **Peter Read is an independent education adviser; see [www.kentadvice.co.uk](http://www.kentadvice.co.uk).**

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## Gales of discontent

So Roger Gale MP's wife, Suzy, is still fuming over the prospect of becoming redundant, describing it as a crazy situation.

I say, join the real world. It is an everyday occurrence, people's livelihoods are changed by governments all the time.

Mrs Gale's defence seems to be: I've done it for almost 27 years, my husband doesn't want to sack me, I haven't done anything ghastly, and he can't make me redundant because my job still exists.

The fact you have done something for 27 years doesn't make you good at it. Mr and Mrs Gale seem to believe they have a job for life. Perhaps the voters in Thanet need to give them an injection of reality.

Thanet is a deprived area with massive unemployment and other issues. I suggest the Gales do something for Thanet, rather than indulging in self pity. I, for one, have had enough of it. They should listen to Thanet people's stories about living on unemployment benefit or income support – they have something to really whine about.

*Kenneth Little, Whitstable*

## Alarmed at Taser patrol

I was perturbed to read the story about patrols at Dungeness power station being armed with Taser stun-guns.

I would imagine that the force is not trained to the same high standard as police marksmen and also do not have the training background of a police officer.

A lot of people visit the Dungeness area and I rather think there is an accident waiting to happen. Time will tell.

*Frank Beckley, by email*

## They'll be watching us

Your story on the use of ANPR cameras at Kingsnorth showed once again that intrusive

## Give Lisbon Treaty a chance

The Lisbon Treaty isn't in force yet, so it is premature for the Conservatives to say that it isn't working and needs to be changed. That would be to put ideology above practicality, which is not the right thing to do. It is better to give the new treaty a chance.

There is a large and far-reaching agenda ahead of Europe at the moment, including economic recovery, climate change, Afghanistan, and improving Europe's relations with China, Russia and America.

The Lisbon Treaty will help Europe deal with these important issues.

Any attempt to renegotiate the treaty will be difficult, time-consuming and counter-productive. It makes more sense to deal with the real issues facing Europe right now than to pick an unnecessary and

distracting argument with our European partners. Contrary to Eurosceptic claims, the Lisbon Treaty will make the EU more democratic, more effective and more accountable. It was supported by governments in 27 countries and opposition parties in 26 and represents the broad European consensus. Opposing it means heading for isolation rather than being in the mainstream of Europe.

A referendum on a European treaty that was already in force would be unprecedented and a legal nightmare.

There have been eight years of debate leading up to the Lisbon Treaty. The Conservatives are kidding themselves if they think renegotiating will be easy.

*Dr Alan Bullion, Liberal Democrat Parliamentary candidate for Sevenoaks*

laws bought in supposedly to fight terrorism or organised crime are then hijacked by the State for minor infringements.

The 'crimes' of attending a demonstration, or putting out the wrong rubbish, or trying to send your children to the school of your choice, or of taking innocent photographs, are becoming more commonplace as anti-terrorism laws are misused. Most static ANPR cameras are on main roads, but what is to happen when road tolls become law?

Every journey you make (and where your vehicle is parked overnight) will be fed into some giant secret database, for who knows what purpose. How long before all those who

might protest at any government or council policy have their cars 'marked' in this way?

You have often printed my letters, along with many others who are critical of government policies. Road tolling will allow every car journey to be monitored. Will our cars be marked more closely because our non-conforming thoughts have been put into print?

Are we to be regarded by the State as 'not good citizens', and by the police as 'of special interest'?

Don't forget that as journalists any scathing reports about those in power could put you on this secretive list. This is why road tolling is supported by the major politi-

cal parties and the EU. They don't want hindrance to their political agendas, just a nation of mindless drones scared of voicing their views. Nobody should be branded as criminal if they have genuine concerns about an issue. As George Orwell so aptly put it: "In a time of universal deceit, telling the truth becomes a revolutionary act."

*Terry Hudson, Herne Bay*

## Sign up for change

The Kelly Review is supposed to fix the expenses scandal in Westminster, but what it won't do is fix our broken politics.

I've just signed a letter, to be presented to the three main party leaders, which cries out for change.

If you're fed up with seeing MPs arguing over their second homes and the right to give jobs to their nearest and dearest, while our public services face severe cuts, people are losing their jobs and homes and struggling to repay their mortgages, then you should sign it too: [www.power2010.org.uk/notenough](http://www.power2010.org.uk/notenough), Together we'll make them listen.

*Rita Grootendorst, Sidcup*

## With friends like this

So German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Nicholas Sarkozy are said to be livid about Tory leader David Cameron's efforts to delay the Lisbon Treaty.

Wasn't it these two who used every trick in the book to get the treaty through?

Who cajoled the Poles into signing? Who made the Irish have another referendum until they achieved a yes vote? They've been involved in a lot of arm twisting. Then there's the opt-outs both Germany and France have awarded themselves. My hope is they end up chucking us out of the EU – with friends like this, who needs enemies?

*RE Tucker, Sheerness*

Letters continue on page 34

### YOUR LETTERS

KOS Media welcomes your comments and letters for publication. Please send correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. Alternatively fax them to: 01303 817002, or email them to [editorial@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:editorial@kosmedia.co.uk). Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances. Please also include a daytime telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

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## BIRTHS

### CRITCHLEY

Stuart and Shelley of Birchington celebrate the birth of their son James Thomas Critchley on 17th October 2009. A beautiful son, perfect in every way.

### DAVIES / CANT

Oliver James born on 11th October 2009 weighing 8lbs 10oz to Rachael Davies and Lee Cant of Maidstone.

### HEMINGWAY

Alfy, born on 25th October 2009, weighing 5lb 11oz. Son to Nicola Mason and Samuel Hemingway in Hawkinge, Kent.

### HOWARD

Mark and Lucy of Whitstable would like to announce the birth of their second son, Oliver William Edwin, born on 23rd October 2009. A new brother for Ethan.

### HUMPHREY / TRAINOR

Paul and Frances celebrate the birth of their son Bradley Raymond Humphrey on 27th October 2009, weighing 7lbs 7oz.

### HURREN

Peter and Julia Hurren are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Katarina Belinda Emily Hurren at 2.41 pm on 19th October 2009. Katarina weighed 6lb 15oz and is beautiful.

### JENKINSON

Tiffany and Nick Jenkinson celebrate the birth of their daughter Arabella Evie on 23rd October 2009 at Maidstone Hospital weighing 8lbs.

### KING

Daniel born on 24th October 2009 weighing 10lbs 8ozs. Son to Russell and Louise King in Dover.

### LADD

Samantha and David of Deal are delighted to announce the birth of their son Aidan Ivor John Ladd, born on 26th October 2009 at QEQM Hospital.

### SAUNDERS

Baby George Matthew Saunders born to Julia and Matthew Saunders on 23rd September 2009 weighing 8lbs 11ozs.

### TUCKER

Olivia Millie born on 26th October 2009, weighing 5lb 9oz. Daughter to Declan and Jodie Tucker from Larkfield.

## DEATHS

### ADDISON

Joyce of Hawkinge, passed away on 16th October 2009 following a short illness at William Harvey Hospital. Much loved wife of Bryan and dearly loved mother of Guy. Funeral service has taken place. Donations if desired to Cancer

### Research UK, c/o

Chittendens Funeral Services, 1 Ingoldsby Road, Folkestone, Kent, 01303 851456, or go to www.justgiving.com/joyceaddison.

### BAKER

Painless Jeff (Godfrey Donald Baker) of Walmer passed away peacefully on 28th October 2009. Will be very sadly missed by family and friends. The funeral will take place at Barham on November 20th at 3.20pm.

### BENNETT

Raymond Bennett of Canterbury passed away peacefully after a short illness, bravely born, on 3rd November 2009. A much loved husband, dad, grand-dad and great grand-dad who will be so very sadly missed by all of his family and those who knew him. Please contact a family member regarding the funeral arrangements.

### LUDGATE

Beryl Georgina Ludgate passed away on 31st October 2009 after a very long illness. With love from her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

### NELSON

Tommy Nelson of Iwade formerly of Eltham passed away peacefully on 26th October aged 71 years. Will always be in our thoughts and words can never express how much we will miss you.

### PANNELL

Ian Bartholomew Pannell of Broadstairs passed away on 27th October 2009 at the QEQM Hospital. A dearly loved brother to Nicholas who will be deeply missed by all who knew him. The cremation will be held at Thanet Crematorium on 13th November at 2pm. Family flowers only but if desired donations to The Stroke Association.

### PEPPER

We would like to inform friends and family that Mike Pepper of Herne sadly passed away on 26th October 2009. Please no flowers but any donations to Help for Heroes through A Welch and Sons of Herne Bay. He will be sadly missed.

### PETTITT

Peggy Patricia on the 30th October 2009, aged 82. Dearly loved Mother and Grandmother. Funeral service at Vinters Park Crematorium on 11th November 2009 @ 11am. Family flowers only, donations to Macmillan Nurses.

### WILLIAMS

Bill Williams of Dartford passed away peacefully in hospital on Saturday 31st October 2009 Fondly remembered by his children grand children and friends.

Remembrance Day and a plea which I hoped to enhance through my action. This time of remembrance is vital, especial now with fascism stirring again throughout Europe.

We must remember, not just those who gave (and give) their lives but also the reasons we went to war (both then and now).

I was pleased that the legion, and influential voices within the Armed Forces, recently spoke out against the dark irony of the BNP attempting to co-opt imagery of this nation's honourable fight against fascism.

It's sad but true, patriotism is routinely co-opted by those who seek power to further their own selfish agendas. I try to have faith that the sickening neo-Nazi legacy will never take root on our shores but with our democracy in such a shambles, it is seemingly never more open to abuse.

I am forever grateful to all those who have risked their lives resisting fascism (be it fighting the Nazis, Mosley's Blackshirts at Cable Street, the National Front at Lewisham, or the BNP at the BBC).

I'm also humbled by the likes of Lance-Corporal Joe Glenton, who have shown the courage to put their necks on the line to speak out against the unjust resource wars of our corrupt leaders. Some commentators have said I should be ashamed of what I did, but I am only ashamed I do not have the courage to identify myself. Those who should really be ashamed are those who make a mockery of our democracy, abuse our nation's history and betray the positions of power entrusted to them.

So, I'm truly sorry for any upset caused to the family and friends of those who appear on the posters, or to those who have served this country, but I stand by my message.

Let's prosecute our corrupt politicians and bring the troops home before Christmas.

*Sadly anonymous, by email*

## Helping our veterans

On Remembrance Day, our thoughts turn to the many servicemen and women who have fought for their country during two World Wars or in more recent times.

Many of us will be wearing poppies in remembrance of the sacrifices these brave men and women have made. At the Legal Services Commission, we work to ensure that people in the local area who have risked their lives for their country can find expert advice about their rights when they return home.

The men and women serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and other parts of the world are, of course, at the forefront of our minds at this time, but it is important not to forget those who bravely served in earlier conflicts.

We have produced an online information leaflet – Veterans: rights for former servicemen and women and their families. It explains about financial help available to veterans, serving forces personnel and their families, and also gives advice on matters such as finding accommodation or work on leaving the forces. It also lists the contact details of organisations that provide help and support to former forces personnel.

You can download the leaflet from [www.communitylegaladvice.org.uk](http://www.communitylegaladvice.org.uk).

The legal aid funded community legal advice helpline (0845 345 4 345) can also help people on benefits or low incomes, by providing free expert legal advice about family matters, debt, employment, education, Housing, welfare benefits and tax credits.

*Denise McConnell, LSC*

## Rover's off the menu

A controversial new book – Time to Eat the Dog? The Real Guide to Sustainable Living – suggests that pets damage the environment.

On the contrary, here at veterinary charity PDSA we believe that owning pets may help us improve our own carbon footprint and brings many other benefits.

Many dog owners, for example, walk their children to school with the family pet, rather than take the car. This is good for our health as well as the environment. Similarly, thousands of us take pets on holiday within the UK, rather than flying to distant holiday destinations, so helping cut carbon emissions.

Pets benefit us in other ways too. Evidence shows that they can reduce stress and

depression, improve health and teach responsibility to children. Indeed, we know that school children with pets take about nine days fewer off school than those without. So don't blame pets for the state of our environment. We need to look at our own actions.

*Elaine Pendlebury, Senior Vet, PDSA*

## Calling all male Foads

I would like to bring to the attention of your readers a genealogical project designed especially for Foads in Kent.

This project hopes to discover how many distinct Foad family lines there are in England, as well as elsewhere, and to connect together those who are descended from the same family founders. Simple DNA testing for standard genealogical markers will be used to compare the participants and to identify the separate family lines.

This project is open to all male Foads. As only men carry the Y chromosome that is being tested, women can participate by encouraging a Foad father, brother, uncle, or male Foad cousin to become involved. I have sufficient funds to pay the cost of testing a small number of qualified participants at no cost to them except for postage to return their samples to the lab.

There are no privacy concerns for participants in this project. No health-related information is revealed by these tests, no-one's identity can be stolen or impersonated and all results are strictly anonymously.

The DNA testing company in Houston, Texas, is very reliable and respected, and the project is being run according to strict policies on privacy, anonymity and confidentiality. This project is just one of about 5,000 family history projects that are actively using DNA to solve specific genealogical problems.

Anyone interested in the Foad Surname DNA Project can find more by visiting [www.familytreedna.com/public/foadsurname/](http://www.familytreedna.com/public/foadsurname/).

*Martin H. Potter, administrator, Foad Surname DNA Project, Ontario, Canada*

## Make progress on ME

Sir Peter Spencer of Action for ME is quite right. Before people with myalgic encephalomyelitis can hope for prevention, effective treatment and a cure, the recent American study suggesting a retrovirus may be a physical cause of their illness must be replicated.

But there is also another important prerequisite before further research should be undertaken: to ensure that we agree a universal set of diagnostic criteria to be used each time, or else the results will not be comparable and firm conclusions could not be drawn.

Until something more exclusive comes along, if any criteria other than the Canadian consensus (Carruthers, et al, 2003) alone is used there will inevitably be some pollution of the sample of people tested, a reduction of the numbers in each illness category allowed to intrude and, therefore, a dilution in the confidence of being able to extrapolate conclusions to people only with ME and not any other illness within the chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) bundle of illnesses, with which it is erroneously associated and confounded.

There are not "250,000 people in the UK with ME", as is often said. There is an estimated range of between 125,000 and 250,000 with CFS/ME. It is important that we identify how many of the 250,000 have ME but not one of the other illnesses in the CFS bundle so the best advice may be offered.

Many people with ME will be concealed within the CFS group, inflating the numbers and reducing validity and reliability.

Sufferers will hope that Action for ME will call for government funding to be spent on biomedical research, seeking a physical cause instead of on psychological management techniques and insist on replication using standardisation by the most exclusive criteria.

Progress towards a cure for all these illnesses, not just ME, has been hampered by lax experimental design. This landmark research has provided a great opportunity to take firmer control.

*Dr John H Greensmith, MEFreeForAll.org, Bristol*

Letters continued from page 33

## Blair is the real target

An open letter to Hester Wright, Debbie Smalley and the Royal British Legion:

As the person responsible for modifying the Poppy Appeal poster next to Gillingham station (and another not far away), I'd like to apologise for any offence caused.

There was no intent to dishonour anyone (Tony Blair excluded) and I meant no disrespect to either the Royal British Legion and its supporters, nor to the family of Damian Wright.

I was shocked to hear about the upset this has apparently caused. I'd never dreamt my efforts would lead to the national media probing his mother and widow about their feelings on 'vandalism'.

Personally I don't consider re-wording the poster to be an act of vandalism (or 'a bit of fun') and I don't for a moment think that it will have adversely impacted on the fund raising efforts of the Poppy Appeal.

Despite the outrage from some quarters, I am certain the sentiments expressed by myself (and other 'subvertisers') are supported by the majority in this country, including large numbers of current and ex-servicemen and women.

In fact, if recent polls are to be believed, more people would like the troops home now than ever voted for the Government that sent them to war.

Some people, while agreeing with the message, have suggested that instead of subverting the Poppy Appeal posters, I should have paid for my own. But free speech isn't free and in this Orwellian era of eroding civil liberties and political policing, I wouldn't fancy my chances. Others suggested that I should have lobbied my MP and/or lawfully protest-

ed outside Downing Street, but I have – as have millions of others. Like most people in this country, I have lost faith in the political system. I'm disillusioned by the collusion and vested interests of the media and despair at the injustice all around. Public services get cut or privatised and working people lose their jobs, pensions or their homes while the Government bails out the bankers and sends yet more working class kids to die for their geopolitical ambitions. It makes me sick.

Ordinary people don't have the same freedoms and privileges enjoyed by the ruling classes, who seem immune to being held accountable for their greed and corruption.

Instead, they always seem to find a way to 'reward' themselves, at our expense. Those who dissent find themselves labelled as 'domestic extremists' and threatened with police violence and terror laws.

Yes, I've been guilty of thought crime. Like many, I was appalled when Tony Blair became peace envoy to the Middle East and horrified at suggestions he could now become EU president. So when I saw people had started subverting the Afghan posters with the new message, 'For Their Sake, Bring 'Em Home', I was inspired to do my own to remind people of Blair's war record.

I understand the Royal British Legion values its reputation as being apolitical and I am sorry if anyone felt misled into thinking the legion was taking a position on the rights or wrongs of current military incursions.

That was not my intent, although obviously I did aim to get passers-by thinking about these issues themselves.

I support the work of the Legion, although I think it's tragic that veterans and their families have to rely on charity, rather than receive the support they deserve from the Government so quick to spend money sending our troops to war. The adage 'never forget' is one normally associated with



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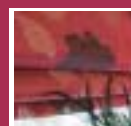
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# Your garden can be a winter haven

By JANE JEWITT

IT IS almost the end of the year, a time when we are all busy with indoor jobs. The garden can get forgotten in winter but there are some very good reasons to keep on going out there.

On a cold and breezy day you only need to be outside for half an hour to feel thoroughly invigorated by the fresh air. And when Christmas is in full swing a moment of freedom from the kitchen and all the noise as you disappear into the garden to pick the parsley and thyme will be a real tonic.

Your garden can provide all the greenery you need to decorate the house for Christmas. I use long strands of ivy tied with bright ribbon and hung onto picture hooks and woven through the banisters. Sprigs of conifer, pine, holly and eucalyptus drape the mantle shelf with a few pine cones and candles.

Each autumn I earmark good sprigs of holly with berries, but the birds regularly wait till a

week before Christmas before eating them up. They must have an all-night party of gorging! So Pyracantha and Cotoneaster do perfectly well with good red berries that remain on the plant into the New Year. And they are much easier to handle than prickly holly leaves.

Go outside and enjoy the perfumes of winter flowering shrubs. There can be more perfume in the garden now than in the summer months. There are so many tough and beautiful shrubs to choose from. Viburnum, Camellia, Winter Jasmine, Skimmia, Honeysuckle, Witch-hazel, Sarcococca, Garrya, and I haven't even mentioned conifers.

Witch-hazel, Hamamelis, is one of my favourites – in January and February the bare stems have strange delicate yellow flowers, that look more like spiders than flowers, and have the most exquisite perfume.

Skimmia is a shrub that I used to think was rather dull. They are evergreen and flower in the winter, all well and good. But the berries on my female plant have been shining scarlet and bright since September, and they will last until February or longer. Why should I ask for more?

But I can. Skimmia 'Kew Green', thrives in the shade and flowers in early spring, with

large upright conical cream flowers that have a wonderful heady perfume.

The strong perfumes common to many winter flowering shrubs enable the plant to attract pollinating insects from great distances when the weather is mild enough for insects to be out and about. Our honey bees need nectar throughout the year so growing some winter flowering shrubs will help our bee colonies to survive the coldest months.

But for me, the greatest joy of a little time outside in winter is to look for the tiny buds forming on my shrubs and trees. They are the promise of what is to come next year.



CHILL OUT: Get colour and fragrance through winter with top left, winter jasmine, above, Pyracantha, and right, witch-hazel

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By **GABRIELLE FAGAN**

NOTHING is more in vogue this autumn than a British flag themed interior.

This trend has jumped off the catwalk into our homes, with fashion designers such as Lulu Guinness using the Union Jack in their designs.

Nostalgic and perfectly in tune with our current love of retro-chic, the shops are filled with a patriotic array of items, from furniture emblazoned with the flag to eye-catching lamps and cushions.

"Not since the days of Britpop in the early nineties have we seen the flag used as such a huge style icon," says Claire Hornby, creative stylist at store group, Barker and Stonehouse.

"UK interiors have seen a very patriotic trend coming through recently and it will definitely continue into next year."

Just to underline the Union Jack's symbolic value, the only surviving flag which flew at the Battle of Trafalgar is expected to see bids exceeding £15,000 when it is auctioned on Trafalgar Day, October 21.

Flying the flag in your own rooms should be a slightly less expensive exercise. But remember that less is more, to prevent that tourist souvenir stall look.

**Left: HomeSense Union Jack Louis style cabinet £129.99; Middle: Barker & Stonehouse; Hope and Glory Sofa £1595; Right: Andrew Martin Union Jack Pod Chair £3,295**



Claire's advice is to simply mix red, white and blue pieces – you don't need to fill your home with items embellished with flags.

"Make an impact by keeping walls and furnishings plain. White walls, neutral flooring, then add a 'not to be ignored' patriotic statement. Choose a sofa or chair embellished with a flag or make a feature of a few well-chosen red, white and blue flag accessories," she says.



Further retro-style pieces of glossy perspex or metal, such as a vivid red filing cabinet or contemporary lacquered white drawers, would enhance the effect.

Traditionalists may shudder at the flag's new incarnation but the variety and quality of the homeware currently flying off the shelves shows the flag's iconic design can be successfully turned on its head and retain its cool status.

We've sourced everything you need to cre-

ate a 'Best of British' room.

#### Flag facts

The British flag (the Union Jack) incorporates the national symbols of three distinct countries: England, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Those symbols are the St George's Cross – the flag of England, St Andrew's Cross – the flag of Scotland and St Patrick's Cross – the flag of Ireland. All are named after the patron saint of each country.

The Welsh flag, with the dragon, was not incorporated into the Union flag because Wales had already been united to England when the first version of the Union flag was designed in 1606.

The flag's use at sea probably resulted in the word



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'Jack' being added to the name Union flag, because it was usually flown at the bow end of the ship, from the jack staff.

The name Union Jack became official when it was approved in Parliament in 1908.

#### Flag up the style

If you're confident that your enthusiasm for the look won't wane, it's fine to paint walls in red, white or blue.

Cool Britannia pieces can also look striking set against shades such as muted silvers, as well as neon pinks through to brick reds.

But a safer bet might be offsetting white walls with a contrasting wall of royal blue, suggests Claire Hornby.

"It's not a colour often used in decorating but blue is coming through strongly this season so it's dark shades can be used with confidence."

For a less permanent celebration of the style hang a Union Jack wall canvas, or a beautiful

hand-made rug such as one

from The Rug

Company which

has the classic,

Union Flag or a

more muted version

by fashion designer,

Vivienne Westwood.

For versatility and

instant 'wow' effect my choice would be a Union Jack blanket throw which could also be used as a wall hanging or bedspread. It's £212.50 from Graham & Green.

Alternatively, dress a window with a bespoke Union Jack blind, £143.50 from Web-blinds.com. Choose your own flag design and get them to make it up for you.

**Budget buy:** Debenhams Union Jack range includes a flag printed canvas, £45, and a rug, £100.

#### Fly the flag

"The Union Jack flag has become more popular in the home as the maximalism trend has taken over," says designer Joanna Wood.

"As we've moved away from plain and neutral interiors, the patriotism and 'mod' style has grown even more and decorative pieces of furniture reign supreme."

So if you've got a severe case of autumn flag fervour, and the budget to back your desires, there are plenty of stunning statement pieces to choose from.

An aptly-named Hope and Glory sofa – a buttoned Chesterfield – looks as though it's been draped in the flag as its vintage-style upholstery bears the complete design.

You could bag a bargain on this

as it's £1,595 at



Left: Urban Jack Throne £500; Middle: John Lewis Hampton Crest cushion, £29; Right: Union Jack bespoke lampshade £200

Barker & Stonehouse until November 15, after which it increases to £3,195. A matching armchair, £969 and footstool, £815 are available.

Connoisseurs of interior fashion know that the trademark of interior specialists Andrew Martin is skilfully incorporating iconic designs into furniture and accessories.

Their pod chair, £3,295 which is reminiscent of the sixties, has an upholstered interior and wooden back emblazoned with the flag and is definitely an investment piece.

But if you're looking for a talking point value, it's hard to beat a personalised throne dressed in glossy red paint, silver metallic spray with a Union Jack flag seat, from online company, notonthehighstreet.com.

Called the Urban Jack Throne, these revamped antique and vintage chairs, £500, are fab, as are the vintage lampshades, £200.

**Budget buy:** HomeSense, where the style-savvy now shop for designer and on-trend homeware at a fraction of high street prices, has a Louis Union-Jack distressed-style cabinet, £129.99.

#### Flirt with the flag

"Everyone loves a bit of Cool Britannia in the home," says Victoria Wright, spokesperson for HomeSense, "but it's a bold theme, and one that not everyone has the confidence to carry off."

Instead, she suggests, integrating a few Union Jack print items into a room.

"Group a Union Jack print cushion on a sofa with other cushions in block blues and reds and perhaps a white cashmere throw," she says.

"Or create a feature corner with perhaps a retro dial telephone, Union Jack picture frames, all displayed on a cabinet draped with a Union Jack flag."

Debenhams has a large cushion £50, small £30 and tasteful Union Jack mugs £4 each. Next, John Lewis, and Graham & Green have also picked up on the style.

But if a cushion's too predictable other details might appeal.

Aspen & Brown, an online company, has pretty offerings including a fabric-covered Union Jack pinboard, £26.95, wooden flag bunting, £21.95, and a doorstop, £16.95.

**Budget buy:** John Lewis Hampton Crest cushion, £29 has a stately home heirloom look with a gold crest on a Union Jack background.

#### Flag without flash

If you want to join the Union gang but all that colour is too garish for your decor-taste, then opt for a more subtle interpretation.

For instance, a linen and velour cushion in greys and creams by De La Cuona echoes the design and is £110 from Occa-Home.

Or try a leather button-back Rebel Sofa Union Jack from £3,495, with the flag in cream, brown and black imprinted on the back from Andrew Martin.

**Budget buy:**

Linda Barker's Cool Britannia range has an easy-on-the-eye folksy feel.

She's used dusky pinks, washed-out blues and white for a flag cushion, £24.50, matching throw, £57 and rug, £79.95.



### Flag destinations

- Aspen & Brown: 0800 033 6116/www.aspenandbrown.com
- Linda Barker: 0870 242 0651/www.reallylindabarker.co.uk
- Barker & Stonehouse: 01642 230 988/www.barkerandstonehouse.co.uk
- Debenhams: 08445 616161/www.debenhams.com
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# It's time for your tulips

By **HANNAH STEPHENSON**

A DECADE ago, Anna Pavord's book *The Tulip* set a benchmark for biographies of the popular bulb, and the celebrated gardening writer has included the flower again in another informative and beautifully-photographed tome, simply titled *Bulb*.

Pavord, who sits on the parks and gardens panel of English Heritage, has been growing tulips for 40 years and grows around 20 new types each year.

"One thing that strikes me is how brilliant the wild tulips are, and they are increasingly available through bulb companies and garden centres. Wild types are much smaller than we

are used to, and are not only supremely beautiful but are much more likely to stay than other types."

While daffodils are best planted in early autumn, tulips suit late October or early November.

"The two things tulips need to thrive are perfect drainage and to be baked in the summer sun," Pavord explains.

By growing tulips in pots you can adjust the drainage, making sure containers have drainage holes at the base, a layer of crocks at the bottom and a fast-draining potting mix such as John Innes No 3 mixed with a handful of gravel or grit.

"Do not use composts made with peat," Pavord advises. "Tulips like alkaline conditions, not acid ones."

However, in the UK you can't provide the summer baking which prompts new flower buds to



**PLUM PICKINGS:** Tulipa 'Recreado'

form deep in the hearts of the bulbs, which is why many tulips don't flower as well in subsequent years as they do in their first.

The wild varieties tend to be able to put up with lesser conditions than other types, Pavord observes.

"By choosing carefully, you can have tulips in bloom outside from February until early June. In a mixed bed or border, you can use tall tulips towards the back of a scheme or at the centre of an island bed, with shorter tulips growing towards the front of the border," she says.

Pavord loves her tulips in pots. Again, different heights should be taken into consideration and, as a rule, the tulip should be around the same height as the pot is deep.

"All showy tulips will need a pot which is more than one foot [30cm] high. Smaller wild tulips can be grown in a more pan-shaped container," she says.

"In a scree, or some other gravel-covered area, low-growing tulips look best."

As a rule, tulips should be planted three times deeper than the height of the bulb itself, although gardeners whose soil is heavy or clay may plant more shallowly than those with fast-draining, sandy soil.

Containers should be watered well after planting, and then left until they have almost dried out before watering again. When the tulips are in active growth they'll need a steady supply of moisture, but don't waterlog them or the bulbs will rot.

Among Pavord's favourites are Tulipa orphanidea, a species growing to 21cm with pointed petals, in shades of yellow, orange or red.

She also favours T. linifolia Batalinii Group, an early variety in yellows or oranges which should be grown on their own in pots – nothing should be allowed to overshadow their splendour – or in the ground mixed with wallflowers. These tulips should return each year and increase to make a rich mat.

Pavord also loves lily-flowered tulips such as 'White Triumphator' mixed with forget-me-nots, and 'Ballerina', an elegant tulip in sunset shades of orange and red which is also sweetly scented with the subtle aroma of primroses.

While tulips undoubtedly look great in pots as stand-alone specimens, they also have some ideal plant partners. "In

borders you need at least 25 bulbs, a thread through them to the area with hostas, wild geraniums and bronze fennel."

• *Bulb* by Anna Pavord is published by Mitchell Beazley, priced £30. Available now.



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## Warming up your wooden floors

NOW is the time to revise the opinion that solid wood floors and underfloor heating do not go together. Dinesen have used underfloor heating with their Douglas and Oak floors since 1995. Obviously, they can only speak for their own floors, but in their experience underfloor heating is no problem. In fact, in Denmark, more than half of the private projects Dinesen work with choose underfloor heating with their Dinesen floor.

There are, of course, some general guidelines which need to be followed to avoid impoverishment or cracks in the floor. However, most underfloor heating systems providing a uniformly distributed heat.

The planks will, regardless of underfloor heating, shrink when the humidity is low. This results in the characteristic expression of a Dinesen floor, emphasizing both the width and the length of the planks. During winter, the relative humidity may drop and the wood will then settle at lower moisture content and thus shrink. Underfloor heating on its own does not cause major shrinking.

It is important that the underfloor heating is started slowly to allow the wood to slowly adjust to the temperature changes. This procedure has to be followed both for the initial start-up and for later start-ups.

Dinesen does not provide the underfloor heating system, but work with a range of companies, such as Devi, Uponor and Wavin.



## Don't stem your blooming design sense

NOTHING cheers a room up more than a freshly picked bunch of flowers in a beautiful vase. Menu's new spherical glass vase is ideal for any kind of flower and they even look good without any.

In designer Pernille Veja's interpretation, the classic spherical vase has been given refreshing new lines. "The progression from the vase's sphere to its narrow, short neck is what gives the vase its designer DNA," says Pernille Veja. The characteristic neck is a striking design detail and one which makes the flowers sit perfectly in the vase. The little 'turtleneck' supports

the flowers and makes it easy to arrange a large or small bouquet, as three layers of colour meet beautifully at its edge.

The exclusive, hand-blown vase comes in black/white, red/white and white/white models. Measuring 15.5 cm in height, the vase is perfect for nearly all types of cut flowers, from a fine, tightly knit florist bouquet to a freshly picked handful of tulips from the garden.

They retail at £29.95 each.

Or if you are after something a bit more earthy Menu's other new vases could be just what you were looking for. Menu's new vase, 'Organic', is made of stoneware. This vase is also designed by Pernille Veja. It retails at £26.95. [www.menu.as](http://www.menu.as).



## Interior designer, Helle Hylleberg answers readers' design dilemmas



**Q** We are having an extension put on our house facing the garden and adjoining a patio the width of the extension. We are having trouble finding folding doors to fit the full width. We don't want stationary windows either side of French doors. Can you suggest where to find folding external doors?

Sue & Michael, St Mary's Bay

**A** Ayrtan Windows & Doors make bespoke timber frame multi-fold doors. They can be manufactured to a width of eight metres and a height of three metres. I don't know if you have a period house or not – but if you do, they can help there too, as they can replicate original period features. The doors and windows are fully finished on delivery and they can fit them for you too. Take a look on their website: [www.ayrtanbespoke.com](http://www.ayrtanbespoke.com).

**Q** My small kitchen works – apart from nowhere to put pens, elastic bands and all the little things that tend to accumulate on the work top. Have you got any ideas on how to solve this?

**A** Keys, shopping lists, pens, notes and coupons – I know what you mean! Why not create a designated space for all those things by attaching a small drawer unit under your wall units. You can choose a contrast colour or stain one to match your existing units. Ikea does small drawer units – but you might be able to find them locally too. Happy tidying!

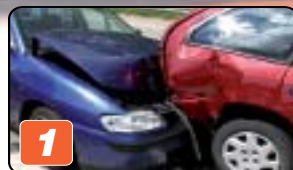
If you have any questions you'd like to ask Helle, email them to [hylleberg@live.co.uk](mailto:hylleberg@live.co.uk) or post them, marked Homes & Gardens Q & A, to KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

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# More plants needn't cut into your tight budget

➤ By **HANNAH STEPHENSON**

**STOCKS** of roses, willows, weigelas, dogwoods and philadelphus can all be increased through hardwood cuttings.

It can be done in the garden, and although the cuttings will take a year to root, it's worth the wait as you will produce large specimens ready for planting out or potting up.

Cut woody shoots from the base of the current year's growth, making a straight cut below a leaf joint and a sloping cut at the tip above a bud and angled away from it to leave the cuttings 20-30cm long.

The base can then be dipped into specially-formulated hormone rooting powder.

Make a slit trench in a well-cultivated, vacant plot by pushing a spade backwards and forwards to create a V shape in the soil, with added organic matter.

Push the cuttings in vertically, 30cm apart, firming the soil back around them with your heel along each side of the row and closing the trench. Water in well.

By next summer, the cuttings should have



**CUTTING:** Left, make sure you take the cutting from right place to ensure good growth; right, autumn is a good time to divide hostas

produced sideshoots, and in autumn you'll have tough, bushy plants ready for transplanting to your chosen spot.

Hardy plants can be rooted in a sheltered

part of the garden or in a pot of soil-based compost in a garden frame over winter, putting them outside in the spring.

There are many other ways of propagating

plants, including dividing clumps of grasses, herbaceous perennials such as hostas and wild geraniums (cranesbill).

The best time to lift and divide is the spring,

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Possibly you own land or have somewhere in mind that you think could be used to develop for new build residential dwellings. John Childs is a director of a bespoke development company called Kentish Homes.Com Ltd, which is a registered house builder with the NHBC.

Why move house when you can extend or redevelop your property?

When you need extra living space an extension or loft conversion can be a cost effective and less stressful alternative to moving house. With the falls in property prices increasing numbers of people are extending their homes to meet their extra living space needs rather than moving.

There are endless reasons why you might need extra space in your home. Maybe you have a growing family and need an extra bedroom, playroom or family bathroom. An extra guest bedroom, shower room or annex for visitors or a family member? Maybe you are starting a business and need an office or studio. Or maybe general home improvement is forefront on the extension or redevelopment agenda and a larger kitchen, lounge or dining room would not only increase their overall usability but make an impressive impact too.

Whatever your uses are for extra living space we can provide sound advice from our experience, an exceptional service and peace of mind knowing we have our own team of tradesmen including certified plumbers, certified electricians and decorators and joiners.



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# If you are watching your finances but want to increase your plant stock, late autumn is the time to take cuttings from many of your deciduous shrubs

just as growth is beginning, or late autumn, as the plant's foliage is dying down for the winter. Tough perennials such as Michaelmas daisies can be divided in the autumn.

Hostas and agapanthus also do well from dividing in late autumn. As hostas have such dense, congested roots, just lift the plant – root ball and all – and split the clump using a sharp knife.

With old, congested plants, you may need to cut out the old woody centre of the clump which doesn't have many strong roots, retaining the stronger roots on the outside of the plant.

The divided plants can be planted at a depth the same as previously grown, the hole infilled with a soil-based potting compost which will retain more moisture. Firm it with your heel to stop air pockets around the plant. They can then be watered in well and left to settle.

If you want to increase your house-plant stock, leaf cuttings may be taken between spring and late autumn and are particularly suitable for propagating African violets, Begonia rex and streptocarpus.

With African violets, remove a whole young leaf complete with stalk and push the stalk into a pot of seed compost until the leaf rests on the surface.

Place the pot in a heated propagator, and within around six weeks a new plant should have formed at the base of the leaf. When it is about 2.5cm high, separate it from the old leaves and pot it on in a soil-less compost.

The leaves of Begonia rex can also be laid flat on a tray of compost, with the stalk

removed. The main veins should be cut using a sharp knife and the underside of the leaf secured to the compost using cocktail sticks or fine wire. Keep the compost moist to create humidity, but don't wet the leaf or it may rot. If kept humid, a young plant should form at each nick.

Soon enough, you will have increased your stock of plants both inside and out, without having to break the bank.



**DIVIDING:** Above, agapanthus does well from dividing in late autumn; and top, dogwood

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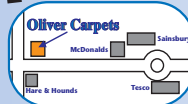
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## Digging up the history

THE history of allotments dates back to at least 1066, and the feudal system established by William the Conqueror.

In those long-ago days, ruling gentry lorded it over their serfs who were allowed to cultivate strips of land in the open manorial fields, alongside meadow and grazing rights. Field enclosures in the 1500s removed some of these rights.

A hundred-odd years later, slave-driven workers had been re-classified as peasants. As part of their meagre ration, they were permitted to grow foodstuffs next to their tied cottages (known as 'pottagers').

The next wave of enclosures occurred between 1760 and 1818. Open and common land was grabbed on an enormous scale. During that time, 5,000 Acts of Parliament secured seven million acres into private ownership.

A further 17 million acres were simply taken, principally by the landed gentry and yeoman farmers. Peasants were now the 'labouring poor'.

Some parish and private ground was rented out to those folk for veg production but opposition to the needs of the workers was rife. Consequently, land allotted for such purposes was few and far between. Where it did exist, strict rules applied. For instance, in some places gardening was prohibited on weekdays between 6am-6pm, and all day Sunday.

Laws were passed in 1845 to legally secure cheap and accessible allotments. Although the motives were arguably to keep the working classes out of the pub when not slogging away for someone else, this was a momentous change.

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**DIG IT:** Allotment spaces come in and out of fashion, so you will need to go on a waiting list with the council to obtain one

became established and popular, especially in urban areas. In 1919 and 1945, immediately following the two World Wars, well over a million allotments were actively in service.

The radical societal and land-use changes since then have seen much 'leisure garden' space lost to development schemes and disuse, but statutory regulations demand that authorities provide these areas for use by the

council tax-paying public. Modern sites are havens for people of all races, ages, genders, political persuasions and classes: individuals who seek solace in the company of the soil and what it can produce.

Enthusiasm for allotment gardening comes and goes like most fads and fashions. The first thing to do if the prospect takes your fancy is to visit your local council offices,

enquire, and (more than likely) put your name on a waiting list. Depending on the mood of the day, an opportunity to get deep down and dirty may come along sooner than you think. Be prepared!

• **'On The Plot With Dirty Nails: a practical guide to fruit and vegetable gardening in words and pictures'** by Joe Hashman (ISBN 9781905862320) rrp £12.99, is available now from bookstores and Amazon.

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## Innovative year

A BUSINESS centre where every tenant has agreed to offer work experience to neighbouring students is celebrating its first anniversary.

Built on the grounds of the Marlowe Academy in Ramsgate, the Marlowe Innovation Centre provides office and studio space for 25 small firms and is now fully occupied.

Manager Leza Riley said: "The centre looks out directly onto the school – a constant reminder that these youngsters are our future."

"The small businesses which sign up as tenants here are committed to offering work experience in a number of ways, and our own not-for-profit ethos means there will be a growing fund that will help finance local children through university."

## Campus invitation

NORTH West Kent College will open its doors to prospective students on Wednesday.

Advisers and lecturers from both the Gravesend and Dartford campuses will be available to show people around and answer any questions. Visit [www.nwkcollege.ac.uk](http://www.nwkcollege.ac.uk) for more information.

## Bacteria lecture

A LECTURE on the impact of stress on bacteria will be given at the University of Kent at Canterbury on Tuesday. The speaker will be Dr Gail Ferguson, from the Institute of Medical Sciences at the University of Aberdeen.

The talk is at 6pm in the Brabourne lecture theatre, Keynes College.

# Aiming higher reaps rewards for young

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

[steve.knightk@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:steve.knightk@kosmedia.co.uk)



**PAT MCFADDEN:** The business minister was impressed by Aimhigher's work in Kent

A SCHEME aimed at helping more youngsters into higher education is being hailed a success in Kent and Medway.

The Government-funded Aimhigher project targets young people who have the ability to attend college or university, but not necessarily the confidence or knowledge of how to do so.

According to the Aimhigher Kent and Medway Partnership, a recent tracking study of nearly 2,500 youngsters revealed that by age 18 or 19, some 33 per cent of them had entered higher education.

This compares favourably with the 18.1 per cent participation rate of a similar initiative by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service.

A large part of the Aimhigher project is the effort put in by mentors, who work to inspire children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

A separate tracking study of 91 children who received specialist mentoring in year 11 found that 46 per cent progressed to higher education.

One such mentor – University of Greenwich student Vipin Dhunnoo – has performed so well in the role that he was

recently recognised at the National Aimhigher Awards.

The 21-year-old – who works with young people at Bexley Business Academy and at Blackfen School for Girls in Sidcup – was congratulated by business minister Pat McFadden.

Mr McFadden said: "It's heart-warming to read the stories of individuals who have won awards, some from very challenging circumstances."

"The Government is committed to pursuing social justice, which is why we have continued to expand the university system and explore ways to make it more accessible. I believe the future of higher education remains exceedingly bright."

Based at Canterbury Christ Church University, the Aimhigher Kent and Medway Partnership also includes the University of Kent, the University for the Creative Arts, the Open University and several colleges.

Mr McFadden said: "Aimhigher is a brilliant example of a programme that changes the lives of young people."

"It helps to give them the chance of a better future and to realise their dreams and ambitions."

"I am pleased to be involved in the 2009 awards, celebrating the hard work and dedication of those benefiting from Aimhigher and the staff who support them."

## A chilly night to remember

CREATIVE students from the Kent School of Architecture in Canterbury suffered the cold and spent the night outdoors in temporary shelters.

About 150 first years used cardboard, parcel tape, bamboo poles, plastic ducting, string and polythene as part of a project about the use of space and the suitability of materials.

Each shelter could accommodate either three or four people, and all health and safety regulations were complied with.

Professor Don Gray said: "I hope this visceral and personal appreciation of building performance will spur them on to become even more ambitious in their design aspirations, while understanding the underlying requirements of personal shelter."



**COLD COMFORT:** Students at work on their shelter



## Although the squeeze is on, you still need safety training

COURSE	Duration	Commencement	Cost
First Aid at Work	3 Days	24th November	£185
Asbestos Awareness	1/2 Day	15th December	£80
NVQ Level 3 Registration	1/2 Day	12th January	£1675 + VAT
NVQ Level 4 Registration	1/2 Day	12th January	£1999 + VAT



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## BETHANY LODGE

Eastbridge Road, Dymchurch  
requires a

### REGISTERED NURSE

Friday Night Duty

To join our team in caring for 24 physically disabled adults.  
£146.90 per night - 8pm to 8am  
Please telephone: 01303 872289  
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9-2pm

Tel: 01795 532629  
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for further details

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F/T or P/T Full Training Available  
Call Sara on 01795 532201  
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No experience  
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Full training and  
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4pm-8am nights

3 nights first week and 4 nights second week

8am-4pm days

alternative weeks -

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Please ring for an information pack on 01634 579505

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Plus Increments and allowances

We are looking for Residential support workers at all levels.

The work is challenging, rewarding, and important.

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01227 369089 or visit our website to download an application  
form: [www.benecareltd.co.uk](http://www.benecareltd.co.uk) or Steve Richmond, Director  
on 07710 145802 or 01892 740886

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required  
for busy private club with floodlit driving range.

Duties include teaching, playing, together with some  
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full training can be given to the right person.  
Applicants should be outgoing, enthusiastic and  
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Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1TW  
Tel: 01227 462865  
Email: [paul.everard@foremostgolf.com](mailto:paul.everard@foremostgolf.com)

KCA (UK) provides a wide range of high quality, innovative primary care mental health services. KCA PTP provides a strong departmental framework with regular supervision, line management, monthly team meetings, effective administration and opportunities for further training and career development.

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### Senior Psychological Wellbeing Practitioners x 2

£24,831 - £33,436 (AGENDA FOR CHANGE BAND 6) • 37.5 HOURS PER WEEK  
BASED MEDWAY

We require two experienced Psychological Wellbeing Advisors to work with adult clients in our well established service providing low intensity CBT based interventions. Based in our Medway team, you will also be required to line manage a number of qualified and trainee Psychological Wellbeing Advisors.

We would welcome applications from professionals who can demonstrate generic competencies in psychological therapy and basic cognitive and behavioural therapy. This may include Graduate Mental Health Workers, Registered Mental Health Nurses and Occupational Therapists in addition to those who have undertaken the IAPT training and have post qualification experience. Ref: 615.

For an informal discussion, please contact Kerry Smith, Service Manager, KCA Psychological Therapy Providers on 01634 673304 (Monday - Thursday).

### Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner

£20,710 - £26,839 (AGENDA FOR CHANGE BAND 5) • 37.5 HOURS PER WEEK  
BASED SWALE

We require an experienced mental health advisor to work within our established IAPT low intensity teams in Swale. You will offer low intensity, CBT based interventions to adults experiencing mild to moderate mental health issues.

You will be expected to have a clear understanding of CBT approaches and techniques, low intensity/high volume working, telephone work with clients and a knowledge of current NICE and IAPT guidance. Ref: 616.

For an informal discussion, please contact Susan Wyles, Service Manager, KCA Psychological Therapy Providers on 01795 590212.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from [www.kca.org.uk](http://www.kca.org.uk) or call 01795 590635. Please quote the relevant reference number in your application.

Closing date for both roles: Friday 13 November 2009.

Interview date for Senior Psychological Wellbeing Practitioners: Monday 30 November 2009.

Interview date for Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner: Wednesday 2 December 2009.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all.  
Charity no: 292824.

[www.kca.org.uk](http://www.kca.org.uk)



## THE BREW HOUSE HOTEL

### Head Housekeeper

Salary: £18,000 - £20,000

The Brew House Hotel is Tunbridge Wells' finest boutique hotel, located close to the historic Pantiles area. Our Head Housekeeper will be responsible for day to day housekeeping operations and staff to maintain the highest quality of cleanliness in all areas of the hotel, to ensure guest satisfaction. The successful candidate will have previous experience and be able to work flexible hours, including weekends.

#### Responsibilities include:

- Scheduling staff to meet the needs of the business
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- Complete regular audits to ensure all standards are maintained
- Ensure all ordering is completed in a timely fashion
- Schedule preventative maintenance, ensure repairs are completed in a timely fashion and ensure deep cleaning is completed as required
- Undertake duty management shifts if required

Please apply in writing to Kym Hammond,  
The BrewHouse Hotel, 1 Warwick Park,  
Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5TA or online at  
[www.brewhousehotel.net](http://www.brewhousehotel.net)



## YOUTH FUNDRAISING CO-ORDINATOR Canterbury based

An exciting opportunity has arisen for the above post designed to focus on involving young people in fundraising within Pilgrims Hospices.

The Youth Fundraising Co-ordinator will be responsible for the development of fundraising and volunteering within schools, colleges and universities.

The successful applicant will have experience of community fundraising, public speaking and have excellent communication skills. The applicant will be personable, approachable and able to relate well to people at all levels.

Additionally they will be IT literate with excellent planning skills and an eye for detail, have access to own transport and be willing to work flexibly with minimum supervision.

For a full job description and application form please download from [www.pilgrimshospice.org](http://www.pilgrimshospice.org)

Closing date: Wednesday 11 November 2009

Pilgrims Hospices in East Kent is a registered charity no. 293968

To advertise in this section **01303 817040**



## THE BREW HOUSE HOTEL

## Receptionists - Full or Part Time

We are looking for professional and reliable reception staff. Our reception team are the "face" of the hotel and the first point of contact for our guests. The successful candidate(s) will be well presented, articulate and able to work flexible hours, including weekends. Previous experience is ideal but not essential as all training is provided.

Please apply in writing to Kym Hammond,  
The BrewHouse Hotel, 1 Warwick Park,  
Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5TA or online at  
[www.brewhousehotel.net](http://www.brewhousehotel.net)

## Distributors required

### JOIN OUR AWARD WINNING TEAM AND EARN EXTRA CASH

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Own vehicle is required.

Rate of pay is £6.50 per hour plus mileage.

Initiative and smart appearance are the qualifications we need for you to become a representative of our award winning company.



If interested, please contact  
Barbara Coker on 01303 817072

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[www.kentnews.co.uk](http://www.kentnews.co.uk)

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We require a Registered General Nurse to cover maternity leave until August 2010. Hours of work will be Wednesday & Thursday nights from 8pm to 8am.  
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Or e-mail [singletonhome@madasafish.com](mailto:singletonhome@madasafish.com)

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## Account Manager

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The new account manager will play a key role developing new business and maintaining existing relationships. The ideal candidate should be comfortable with all stages of account management and should be proficient at sourcing leads, creating initial contact, delivering presentations, writing proposals, negotiating and closing.

The person we are seeking will be an energetic and enthusiastic individual with good interpersonal skills, strong relationship-building capability and have excellent verbal and written communication ability. They will need to demonstrate a proven sales track record, preferably from within B2B media, will have a good understanding of the benefits of printed, online and live media and ideally knowledge of the Kent marketplace.

KOS Media offers a good basic salary, alongside performance and target-related bonus, plus five weeks annual holiday.

If you believe you are a polished professional sales person looking for a challenging role, please submit your CV to Head of Department  
[christine.davidson@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:christine.davidson@kosmedia.co.uk)



KOS  
media

Award Winning Company

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wanted for fine dining  
restaurant in Ramsgate.  
Experience essential.  
Must be able to work  
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Please send CV to  
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### BRICKLAYERS, HODDIES & FORKLIFT DRIVER

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Must have current  
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Please call Kim  
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We have an exciting opportunity for you to join our Multi Media business which includes the award winning Kent on Saturday and Kent on Sunday newspapers.

If you are highly driven, confident, a self motivated team player with good communication skills, who is able to work under pressure to deadlines and targets, in our fast paced and fun telesales department, then apply.

You will be office based and working with an existing client base of advertisers where customer service is paramount, but you must also be able to search out new business to develop and grow your territory revenues and opportunities. Due to location, you need to have your own transport and a proven track record in sales is preferable.

#### We offer:

- Good basic salary
- Performance and revenue related bonuses
- Five weeks holiday a year

Apply in writing to:  
Tracy Morgan, Telesales Manager,  
KOS Media Ltd, Apple Barn, Hythe Road,  
Smeeth, Ashford, Kent or email  
[tracy.morgan@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:tracy.morgan@kosmedia.co.uk)



Award Winning Company

KOS Media | Apple Barn | Hythe Road | Smeeth | Ashford | Kent | TN25 6SR  
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Closing date: 13 November 2009.

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Supporting a client with complex needs in their own home, long term placement. Recent clinical experience essential, NVQ2 desirable. Pay rate £7.40 – £12.00 per hour.

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**Deanwood Primary School**

**Children and Family Services Co-ordinator**  
**Grade: C2**

**Hours: 37 hours per week – 52 weeks a year**

**Location: Deanwood Primary School**

**Would you like to be part of the exciting launch of Deanwood Primary School's new Children's Centre?**

We are seeking to recruit a Children and Families Co-ordinator to join our enthusiastic team as we prepare to open our brand new children's centre in April 2010.

We are looking for someone who is excited by new challenges and willing to lead a team implementing new projects for local families with young children and working in partnership with a range of local agencies.

#### Applicants should have:

- a Level 3 NVQ in child related and/or family care or a comparable relevant qualification.
- the skills to involve families with young children within a diverse community and become active in the community.
- a good knowledge of the local community.
- excellent communication and leadership skills.
- the ability to maintain systems and a wide range of records and written reports.
- the aspiration for excellence in services for children and families
- a commitment to equal opportunities in service delivery and employment.
- an enthusiasm to develop good working relationships with a wide range of partners, agencies and individuals.
- a desire to keep abreast of current developments, research and best practice, and to review, evaluate and implement change accordingly.

Informal visits to the school are most welcome.

**Offer of appointment is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.**

**To find out more about this exciting role or to arrange a visit please contact: Katy Sparkes, Acting Headteacher on**  
**Tel: 01634 231901 or email [office@deanwood.medway.sch.uk](mailto:office@deanwood.medway.sch.uk)**

**Closing Date: 19th November**

**Interview Date: 26th November**

**Sure Start Children's Centres**  
Medway



**The Foreland School**

Head/Secretary: 01843 863891

Head Teacher - Pam Ashworth

## SCHOOL BUSINESS MANAGER

**required from 4th January 2010 or as soon as possible after that date.**  
**Grade KS9 (£26,421 to £30,219 pro rata) 37 hours per week Term Time + 4 weeks (42 weeks per annum)**

The Foreland School is seeking a School Business Manager to be responsible for the Financial and Personnel Management of the school as well as oversee the smooth running of the School Office with a team of office personnel. The School Business Manager will be a member of the School Leadership Team.

Plans are underway under BSF initiative, focussing on a rebuild of The Foreland School (Broadstairs) with a rebuild of Hartsdown Technology College on the current Hartsdown site in Margate.

The Foreland School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our pupils and will carry out an enhanced CRB on successful applicants.

For an application pack please email [janetpayne@foreland.kent.sch.uk](mailto:janetpayne@foreland.kent.sch.uk) or ring the school office from Tuesday 3rd November 2009.

The closing date for applications is Wednesday 11th November 2009  
Interview date to be Friday 20th November.

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Lecturer in  
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Tunbridge Wells

Teaching on a range of courses within this developing curriculum area, you will ensure that every student receives the support they need to achieve their potential. Excellent communication skills are essential, combined with an up-to-date knowledge of the motor vehicle industry.

You must also be a good team player preferably with teaching or training experience. A relevant teaching qualification would be ideal.

This College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all our users and expects all staff to share this commitment, in order for all to achieve their full potential. The successful applicant will be required to undertake a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check and to provide proof of your right to work in the UK.

**To find out more, view our full list of opportunities and apply online, visit [www.wkc.ac.uk](http://www.wkc.ac.uk) Alternatively call 01732 376511 or email [hr-dept@wkc.ac.uk](mailto:hr-dept@wkc.ac.uk) Please quote ref: KOS12**

**Closing date: 12noon on 19th November 2009**

west kent college



### Abbey Court School "WE GROW PEOPLE"

Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff, efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.

We are currently looking for a  
**TEMPORARY TEACHER**  
**for pupils with severe and profound learning difficulties**

**Starting 4th January until 1st April 2010**  
**(fixed term contract)**

**MPS + 2 SEN Points**

The school is located in pleasant surroundings and we have educational resources of enviable proportions. This post would suit newly qualified teachers or those wishing to gain further experience of SEN. Comprehensive induction and training will be provided.

Telephone enquiries and informal visits to the school welcomed

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

**Closing Date: 13th November 2009**

For further details and a job description, please contact Linda Taylor, Business Manager, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent ME2 3SP  
(Tel: 01634 338236)

To advertise in this section **01303 817040**





## MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint an outstanding individual in the following area:

### Finance Assistant Ref: P0606

Salary - £15,607 - £18,433

We are looking to recruit an exceptional individual to assist the smooth running of the Finance department. The successful candidate will have experience working in Accounts Payable and will be able to demonstrate excellent IT skills, including a sound understanding of Microsoft Excel. Knowledge of accounting packages, Purchase Ledger and Nominal Ledgers would be advantageous.

Closing date: Wednesday 18 November 2009

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website [www.rbli.co.uk](http://www.rbli.co.uk) for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from [www.midkent.ac.uk](http://www.midkent.ac.uk). Alternatively, please e-mail [job.applications@midkent.ac.uk](mailto:job.applications@midkent.ac.uk). For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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## Learning Technician

Salary range £13619 - £15440 pro rota

Full time, 29 hours per week, term time only  
The post will involve supporting student learning when teachers are absent. No previous experience is necessary, but enthusiasm and the ability to get along with young people are essential. Grade 'C' qualification in English and Maths preferable.

For more information about the college and to download an application form visit [www.hughchristie.kent.sch.uk](http://www.hughchristie.kent.sch.uk). Alternatively contact Jenny Rutherford on 01732 353544 Ext. 240.

Closing date: Friday 20th November 2009.

Appointment will be conditional on successful pre-employment and CRB checks.

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**November 17th**



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## Accountancy

### Finance Assistant

#### Ashford

**Salary:** £15,607 - £18,433  
**Closing Date:** Wednesday 18 November 2009

Finance Assistant Ref: P0606  
Salary - £15,607 - £18,433 We are looking to recruit an exceptional individual to assist the smooth running of the Finance department. The successful candidate will have experience working in Accounts Payable and will be able to demonstrate excellent IT skills, including a sound understanding of Microsoft Excel. Knowledge of accounting packages, Purchase Ledger and Nominal Ledgers would be advantageous. Closing date: Wednesday 18 November 2009 MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website [www.rbli.co.uk](http://www.rbli.co.uk) for information, advice and guidance. The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a

Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure. Application forms and further details are available from [www.midkent.ac.uk](http://www.midkent.ac.uk). Alternatively, please e-mail [job.applications@midkent.ac.uk](mailto:job.applications@midkent.ac.uk). For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number. MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer.  
**To apply/more information:** Mid Kent College  
**Quoting Job Ref:** P0606  
Tel: 01634 383102  
Email [job.applications@midkent.ac.uk](mailto:job.applications@midkent.ac.uk)

### Administration, Secretarial, PA

#### Administrator and PA to Doctor

**Canterbury**  
**Salary:** TBC  
**Closing Date:** 16/11/09  
Full-time/ Part-time/Jobshare Are you looking for a change in direction or looking to take a new route with your skills? An opportunity has arisen within a rapidly expanding, exceptional health centre. The position is extremely sought after and is available immediately. Administrator and PA to Doctor of a rapidly

expanding health care practice. We require minimum qualifications of 5 GCSE's Grade C and above (must include English and Mathematics) Basic computer skills are preferable: Proficient user of Sage 50 and Microsoft Office, particularly Word, Excel and Publisher • Hard working and motivated • Enthusiastic and committed • Organised and efficient. Work well solo • Works well within a team • Thrives on self improvement and success.  
**To apply/more information:** Practice Manager  
Wellness Practice  
**Quoting Job Ref:** ISC1  
Tel: 01227 789977  
Email [admin@idealspinecentre.co.uk](mailto:admin@idealspinecentre.co.uk)

#### Receptionist / Customer Service

**Canterbury**  
**Salary:** negotiable  
**Closing Date:** 24/11/09  
FULL-TIME OR JOBSHARE can you Provide excellent service "Walt Disney style"? Are you • Hard working and motivated • Enthusiastic and committed • Organised and efficient • Work well solo • Work well within a team • Thrive on self improvement and success? Then we have the job for you!! We require minimum qualifications of 5 GCSE's Grade C and above (must include English and Mathematics). Basic computer skills are preferable. No experience necessary as full training will be given. Apply for

this position if you consider yourself to be confident and outgoing. If you think you have what we are looking for, please apply in writing with your CV to: Practice Manager, The Wellness Practice Ltd, Blean, Nr Canterbury, Kent CT2 9EB.  
**To apply/more information:** Practice Manager  
Wellness Practice  
**Quoting Job Ref:** cust 001  
Tel: 01227 789977  
Email [admin@idealspinecentre.co.uk](mailto:admin@idealspinecentre.co.uk)

#### ACCOUNTS-ADMIN ASSISTANT

**Ashford**  
**Salary:** TBA  
Full-time bi-lingual (English / French) ACCOUNTS- ADMIN. ASSISTANT We are a small well established and successful Wine Agency representing mainly French Wine Producers selling to the Japanese market Due to imminent retirement of current post holder, we are looking to recruit an adaptable and conscientious person to take charge of all our accounts office procedures, as well helping out with other office functions as necessary Computer literacy and attention to detail essential Salary according to ability and experience Please e-mail C.V. to : [contact@bmwines.co.uk](mailto:contact@bmwines.co.uk) or call 01233-650954 for more information.  
**To apply/more information:** B M Wines Ltd  
**Quoting Job Ref:** kos  
Tel: 01233-650954  
Email [contact@bmwines.co.uk](mailto:contact@bmwines.co.uk)

## Domestic

### Weekend Domestic

#### Faversham

**Salary:** TBA  
Residential Home in Faversham. Require Weekend Domestic 9-2pm Tel: between 9 & 4 for further details 01795 532629.  
**To apply/more information:** Camalea Residential Home  
**Quoting Job Ref:** kos  
Tel: 01795 532629  
Email [applications@jobsforkent.co.uk](mailto:applications@jobsforkent.co.uk)

### Cleaners

#### Canterbury

**Salary:** TBA  
\*Littlebourne House Care Home\* Require Full time and part time carers Day and night And Cleaners Full time and part time. For more information Please call - Maralyn on Tel: 01227 721527.  
**To apply/more information:** Littlebourne House  
**Quoting Job Ref:** kos  
Tel: 01227 721527  
Email [applications@jobsforkent.co.uk](mailto:applications@jobsforkent.co.uk)

### Leafleters

#### Kent

**Salary:** TBA  
Leafleters Wanted Cash Paid Part-time/ Flexible Hours. Call 01342 325 852.  
**To apply/more information:** Nationwide Cleaners SouthEast  
**Quoting Job Ref:** kos  
Tel: 01342 325 852  
Email [applications@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:applications@kosmedia.co.uk)

## Cleaners

#### Kent

**Salary:** £8 Per Hour  
Cleaners Wanted. £8 Per Hour Cash Part-time, Daytime. Call Dermot 01342 325 852.  
**To apply/more information:** Nationwide Cleaners SouthEast  
**Quoting Job Ref:** kos  
Tel: 01342 325 852  
Email [applications@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:applications@kosmedia.co.uk)

## Education, Teacher, School

### SCHOOL BUSINESS MANAGER

#### Broadstairs

**Salary:** £26,421 to £30,219 pro rata  
**Closing Date:** Wednesday 11th November 2009  
SCHOOL BUSINESS MANAGER required from 4th January 2010 or as soon as possible after that date. Grade KS9 (£26,421 to £30,219 pro rata) 37 hours per week Term Time + 4 weeks (42 weeks per annum) The Foreland School is seeking a School Business Manager to be responsible for the Financial and Personnel Management of the school as well as oversee the smooth running of the School Office with a team of office personnel. The School Business Manager will be a member of the School Leadership Team. Plans are underway under BSF initiative, focussing on a rebuild of The Foreland School (Broadstairs)

with a rebuild of Hartsdown Technology College on the current Hartsdown site in Margate. The Foreland School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our pupils and will carry out an Enhanced CRB on successful applicants. For an application pack please email [janetpayne@foreland.kent.sch.uk](mailto:janetpayne@foreland.kent.sch.uk) or ring the school office from Tuesday 3rd November 2009. The closing date for applications is Wednesday 11th November 2009 Interview date to be Friday 20th November.  
**To apply/more information:** Foreland School  
**Quoting Job Ref:** kos  
Email [janetpayne@foreland.kent.sch.uk](mailto:janetpayne@foreland.kent.sch.uk)

### TEMPORARY TEACHER

#### Medway

**Salary:** TBA  
**Closing Date:** 13th November 2009  
Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff, efforts, work and achievement are celebrated. We are currently looking for a TEMPORARY TEACHER for pupils with severe and profound learning difficulties Starting 4th January until 1st April 2010 (fixed term contract) MPS + 2 SEN Points The school is located in pleasant surroundings and we have educational resources of enviable proportions. This post would suit newly qualified

teachers or those wishing to gain further experience of SEN. Comprehensive induction and training will be provided. Telephone enquiries and informal visits to the school welcomed This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure. Closing Date: 13th November 2009 For further details and a job description, please contact Linda Taylor, Business Manager, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent ME2 3SP (Tel: 01634 338236).  
**To apply/more information:** Abbey Court School  
**Quoting Job Ref:** kos  
Tel: 01634 338236  
Email [applications@jobsforkent.co.uk](mailto:applications@jobsforkent.co.uk)

### Lecturer in Motor Vehicle Engineering

#### Tunbridge Wells

**Salary:** £23,760 - £32,666 pa  
**Closing Date:** 12noon on 19th November 2009  
A rewarding role in a developing college Lecturer in Motor Vehicle Engineering £23,760 - £32,666 pa Tunbridge Wells Teaching on a range of courses within this developing curriculum area, you will ensure that every student receives the support they need to achieve their potential. Excellent





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communication skills are essential, combined with an up-to-date knowledge of the motor vehicle industry. You must also be a good team player preferably with teaching or training experience. A relevant teaching qualification would be ideal. This College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all our users and expects all staff to share this commitment, in order for all to achieve their full potential. The successful applicant will be required to undertake a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check and to provide proof of your right to work in the UK. To find out more, view our full list of opportunities and apply online, visit [www.wkc.ac.uk](http://www.wkc.ac.uk) Alternatively call 01732 376511 or email [hr-dept@wkc.ac.uk](mailto:hr-dept@wkc.ac.uk) Please quote ref: KOS12 Closing date: 12noon on 19th November 2009.

**To apply/more information:** West Kent College  
**Quoting Job Ref:** KOS12  
Tel: 01732 376511  
Email [hr-dept@wkc.ac.uk](mailto:hr-dept@wkc.ac.uk)

### Learning Technician

**Tonbridge**  
**Salary:** £13,619 - £15,440 pro rota

**Closing Date:** Friday 20th November 2009  
Hugh Christie Technology College, White Cottage Road, Tonbridge, Kent, TN10 4PU Learning Technician Salary range £13,619 - £15,440 pro rota Full time, 29 hours per week, term time only. The post will involve supporting student learning when teachers are absent. No previous experience is necessary, but enthusiasm and the ability to get along with young people are essential. Grade 'C' qualification in English and Maths preferable. For more information about the college and to download an application form visit [www.hughchristie.kent.sch.uk](http://www.hughchristie.kent.sch.uk). Alternatively contact Jenny Rutherford on 01732 353544 Ext. 240. Appointment will be conditional on successful pre-employment and CRB checks.

**To apply/more information:** Hugh Christie Technology College  
**Quoting Job Ref:** kos  
Tel: 01732 353544 Ext. 240  
Email [applications@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:applications@kosmedia.co.uk)

### Children and Family Services Co-ordinator

**Medway**  
**Salary:** TBA  
**Closing Date:** 19th November  
Deanwood Primary School Children and Family Services Co-ordinator Grade: C2 Hours: 37 hours per week - 52 weeks a year Location: Deanwood Primary School Would you like to be part of the exciting launch of Deanwood Primary School's new Children's Centre? We are seeking to recruit a Children and Families Co-ordinator to join our enthusiastic team as we prepare to open our brand new children's centre in April 2010. We are looking for someone who is excited by new challenges and willing to lead a team implementing new projects for local families with young children and working in partnership with a range of local agencies. Applicants should have: - a Level 3 NVQ in child related and/or family care or a comparable relevant qualification. - the skills to

involve families with young children within a diverse community and become active in the community. - a good knowledge of the local community. - excellent communication and leadership skills. - the ability to maintain systems and a wide range of records and written reports. - the aspiration for excellence in services for children and families - a commitment to equal opportunities in service delivery and employment. - an enthusiasm to develop good working relationships with a wide range of partners, agencies and individuals. - a desire to keep abreast of current developments, research and best practice, and to review, evaluate and implement change accordingly. Informal visits to the school are most welcome. Offer of appointment is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure. To find out more about this exciting role or to arrange a visit please contact: Katy Sparkes, Acting Headteacher on Tel: 01634 231901 or email [office@deanwood.medway.sch.uk](mailto:office@deanwood.medway.sch.uk) Interview Date: 26th November.

**To apply/more information:** Deanwood Primary Ed. Technology School  
**Quoting Job Ref:** kos  
Tel: 01634 231901  
Email [office@deanwood.medway.sch.uk](mailto:office@deanwood.medway.sch.uk)

## Leisure, Tourism, Travel

### Wait staff

**Ramsgate**  
**Salary:** TBA  
Wait staff wanted for fine dining restaurant in Ramsgate. Experience essential. Must be able to work weekends and evenings. Please send CV to [info@ageandsons.co.uk](mailto:info@ageandsons.co.uk)

**To apply/more information:** Age & Sons  
**Quoting Job Ref:** kos  
Email [info@ageandsons.co.uk](mailto:info@ageandsons.co.uk)

### Assistant Golf Professional

**Canterbury**  
**Salary:** TBA  
Assistant Golf Professional and Golf Retailer required for busy private club with floodlit driving range. Duties include teaching, playing, together with some shop work. Experience preferred but not essential as full training can be given to the right person. Applicants should be outgoing, enthusiastic and pro-active. Apply: Paul Everard and Danny Maude, Canterbury Golf Club, Littlebourne Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1TW. Tel: 01227 462865 Email: [paul.everard@foremostgolf.com](mailto:paul.everard@foremostgolf.com)

**To apply/more information:** Canterbury Golf Club  
**Quoting Job Ref:** kos  
Tel: 01227 462865  
Email [paul.everard@foremostgolf.com](mailto:paul.everard@foremostgolf.com)

## Management, Senior Positions

### Operations Manager

**Canterbury**  
**Salary:** Pro-rata £25,000 / initially 3 days a week (flexible)  
**Closing Date:** 5pm 9 November 2009

We are looking for an experienced person to be responsible for the smooth running of our innovative charity; supporting and overseeing areas such as administration, communications, finance and fundraising. Canterbury based. For more information see [www.peopleunited.org.uk](http://www.peopleunited.org.uk), email us or contact Tom Andrews on 01227 470973.  
**To apply/more information:** Tom Andrews  
People United  
**Quoting Job Ref:** kos  
Tel: 01227 470973  
Email [info@peopleunited.org.uk](mailto:info@peopleunited.org.uk)

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## Marketing, Advertising

### MARKETING EXECUTIVES

**Folkestone**  
**Salary:** TBA  
**Closing Date:** 13 November 2009

"Marketing for the over 50s?" It's anything but grey. MARKETING EXECUTIVES Competitive salaries + excellent benefits packages! FOLKESTONE Here at Saga, we offer a wide range of quality insurance and financial services products that meet the needs of today's over-50s. Our product range includes home, motor and health insurance as well as savings accounts and credit cards. Innovative direct marketing has played a huge part in our success, and we've built an enviable reputation as one of the leading players in the UK. Now comes the chance to bring your direct marketing skills to this exciting environment. A range of opportunities are available to work on a broad spectrum of activities, including email, direct mailings and press campaigns. A marketing related degree or equivalent experience, combined with creativity and an eye for detail will be essential. If you are looking to develop high impact direct marketing for our range of insurance and financial services products, please send your CV with a covering letter, stating current salary and quoting reference SS339/KOS, to Sally-Jane Plenge, Senior HR Officer, Saga Group Limited, Enbrook Park, Folkestone, Kent CT20 3SE or email: [human.resources@saga.co.uk](mailto:human.resources@saga.co.uk) Closing date: 13 November 2009. **To apply/more information:** Saga  
**Quoting Job Ref:** SS339/KOS  
Email [human.resources@saga.co.uk](mailto:human.resources@saga.co.uk)

**To apply/more information:** Saga  
**Quoting Job Ref:** SS339/KOS  
Email [human.resources@saga.co.uk](mailto:human.resources@saga.co.uk)

**Marketing Officer**  
**Canterbury**  
**Salary:** TBA  
Canterbury City Council needs a Marketing Officer Apply

online at [www.canterbury.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.canterbury.gov.uk/jobs)  
**To apply/more information:** Canterbury City Council  
**Quoting Job Ref:** kos  
Email [applications@jobsforkent.co.uk](mailto:applications@jobsforkent.co.uk)

## Motor Trade, Driver

### General Assistant

**Canterbury**  
**Salary:** £6.00 ph  
TRUE GRIP DRIVER TRAINING LTD (Near Canterbury) require a General Assistant £6.00 ph Saturday and Sunday 8am to 5pm (approx) and some weekdays For more information please call 01227 363 323 or email kevin.cawood@truegripoffroad.co.uk  
**To apply/more information:** True Grip Driver Training  
**Quoting Job Ref:** kos  
Tel: 01227 363 323  
Email kevin.cawood@truegripoffroad.co.uk

### Owner drivers

**Medway**  
**Salary:** TBA  
Owner drivers required with bikes, small vans, transit, sprinters, and 7.5T Lorries/Bbox Truck with Tail Gate to carry out same day deliveries nationwide and European for a local transport company. Excellent rates of pay immediate start, please call Kirit on 0844 335 6919. Visit [www.transoluk.com](http://www.transoluk.com)  
**To apply/more information:** Transol Worldwide Logistics Ltd  
**Quoting Job Ref:** kos  
Tel: 0844 335 6919  
Email [applications@jobsforkent.co.uk](mailto:applications@jobsforkent.co.uk)

## Nursing, Medicine, Care Work

### Saturday Night Carer

**Romney Marsh**  
**Salary:** TBA  
BETHANY LODGE CARE HOME Eastbridge Road, Dymchurch Requires A Saturday Night Carer, 8pm - 8am. To join our team of professionals caring for young people with disabilities Rewarding and friendly environment. Enhanced rates for NVQ Tel: 01303 872289 for more information And application form All applicants will be required to complete a criminal records bureau check.  
**To apply/more information:** Bethany Lodge/Bethany House  
**Quoting Job Ref:** kos  
Tel: 01303 872289  
Email [applications@jobsforkent.co.uk](mailto:applications@jobsforkent.co.uk)

### Assistant Manager

**Folkestone**  
**Salary:** TBA  
Assistant Manager Required For Residential Care Home In Folkestone We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic and committed person. Must have Minimum NVQ Level 3 Qualification, and Experience in the role above. Please call Miss Julia Carter (Home Manager) on 01303 254019 Subject to satisfactory CRB Check.  
**To apply/more information:** Cumbria House Residential Home  
**Quoting Job Ref:** kos  
Tel: 01303 254019  
Email [cumbriahealthcare.co.uk](mailto:cumbriahealthcare.co.uk)

### Registered Nurse

**Romney Marsh**  
**Salary:** £146.90 per night  
Bethany Lodge, Dymchurch Requires. Registered Nurse Friday Night duty. To join our team in caring for 24 physically disabled adults. £146.90 per night 8pm to 8am Please tel: 01303 872289 for further details and application form.  
**To apply/more information:** Bethany Lodge/Bethany House  
**Quoting Job Ref:** kos  
Tel: 01303 872289  
Email [applications@jobsforkent.co.uk](mailto:applications@jobsforkent.co.uk)

### RESIDENTIAL SUPPORT WORKERS

**Canterbury**  
**Salary:** £11,620  
RESIDENTIAL SUPPORT WORKERS FOR CHILDREN'S HOME SALARY RANGE £11620 (Trainee Grade) to £24,000 pa. Plus Increments and allowances We are looking for Residential support workers at all levels- including Deputy Managers to complement our existing team and to build a second team for our new home. The work is challenging, rewarding, and important. You will be joining a team of experienced professionals dedicated to providing therapeutic care within a homely and nurturing environment for our children and young people. To find out more please contact our Manager Lyn Gibbs on 01227 369089 or visit our website to download an application form: [www.benecareitd.co.uk](http://www.benecareitd.co.uk) For informal discussion and advice on other related opportunities please contact Steve Richmond, Director on 07710 145802 or 01892 740886.  
**To apply/more information:** Bene Care  
**Quoting Job Ref:** kos  
Tel: 01227 369089  
Email [applications@jobsforkent.co.uk](mailto:applications@jobsforkent.co.uk)

### Full time and part time carers

**Canterbury**  
**Salary:** TBA  
"Littlebourne House Care Home" Require Full time and part time carers Day and night And Cleaners Full time and part time. For more information Please call - Maralyn on Tel: 01227 721527.  
**To apply/more information:** Littlebourne House  
**Quoting Job Ref:** kos  
Tel: 01227 721527  
Email [applications@jobsforkent.co.uk](mailto:applications@jobsforkent.co.uk)

### COMMUNITY CARERS

**Kent**  
**Salary:** TBA  
MERIDIAN CARE require COMMUNITY CARERS FANCY A CHANGE IN CAREER THAT IS REWARDING? All shifts required, especially evenings and weekends in Canterbury and Dover. Full training given. Competitive rates of pay with enhancement paid for NVQ qualification. Mileage paid. Please contact Sharon for further details. For Canterbury, Deal and Sandwich call 01227 712300 For Dover call 01304 240424 or email [meridianbury@aol.com](mailto:meridianbury@aol.com)  
**To apply/more information:** Meridian Care  
**Quoting Job Ref:** kos  
Tel: 01227 712300  
Email [meridianbury@aol.com](mailto:meridianbury@aol.com)

### Senior Psychological Wellbeing Practitioners x 2

**Medway**  
**Salary:** £24,831 - £33,436  
**Closing Date:** Friday 13 November 2009.  
KCA (UK) provides a wide range of high quality, innovative primary care mental health services. KCA PTP provides a strong departmental framework with regular supervision, line management, monthly team meetings, effective administration and opportunities for further training and career development. BOTH ROLES ELIGIBLE FOR ESSENTIAL CAR USER ALLOWANCE OF UP TO £1,170 PER ANNUM Senior Psychological Wellbeing Practitioners x 2 £24,831 - £33,436 (AGENDA FOR CHANGE BAND 6) • 37.5 HOURS PER WEEK BASED MEDWAY We require two experienced Psychological Wellbeing Advisors to work with adult clients in our well established service providing low intensity CBT based interventions. Based in our Medway team, you will also be required to line manage a number of qualified and trainee Psychological Wellbeing Advisors. We would welcome applications from professionals who can demonstrate generic competencies in psychological therapy and basic cognitive and behavioural therapy. This may include Graduate Mental Health Workers, Registered Mental Health Nurses and Occupational Therapists in addition to those who have undertaken the IAPT training and have post qualification experience. Ref: 615. For an informal discussion, please contact Kerry Smith, Service Manager, KCA Psychological Therapy Providers on 01634 673304 (Monday - Thursday). Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from [www.kca.org.uk](http://www.kca.org.uk) or call 01795 590635. Please quote the relevant reference number in your application. Closing date for both roles: Friday 13 November 2009. Interview date for Senior Psychological Wellbeing Practitioners: Monday 30 November 2009. Interview date for Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner: Wednesday 2 December 2009.  
**To apply/more information:** KCA (UK)  
**Quoting Job Ref:** 615  
Tel: 01634 673304  
Email [applications@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:applications@kosmedia.co.uk)

clients and a knowledge of current NICE and IAPT guidance. Ref: 616. For an informal discussion, please contact Susan Wyles, Service Manager, KCA Psychological Therapy Providers on 01795 590212. Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from [www.kca.org.uk](http://www.kca.org.uk) or call 01795 590635. Please quote the relevant reference number in your application. Closing date for both roles: Friday 13 November 2009. Interview date for Senior Psychological Wellbeing Practitioners: Monday 30 November 2009. Interview date for Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner: Wednesday 2 December 2009. KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all. Charity no: 292824.  
**To apply/more information:** KCA (UK)  
**Quoting Job Ref:** 616  
Tel: 01795 590635  
Email [applications@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:applications@kosmedia.co.uk)

### Experienced HCA's

**Dover**  
**Salary:** £7.40 – £12.00 per hour  
Urgently Required Experienced HCA's for evening work (7pm - 9pm) in Dover. Supporting a client with complex needs in their own home, long term placement. Recent clinical experience essential, NVQ2 desirable. Pay rate £7.40 - £12.00 per hour Call us now on: 01892 540 866 [tunbridge@bna.co.uk](mailto:tunbridge@bna.co.uk) [www.bna.co.uk](http://www.bna.co.uk)  
**To apply/more information:** British Nursing Association  
**Quoting Job Ref:** kos  
Tel: 01892 540 866  
Email [tunbridge@bna.co.uk](mailto:tunbridge@bna.co.uk)

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### Registered General Nurse

**Ashford**  
**Salary:** TBA  
RCN We require a Registered General Nurse to cover maternity leave until August 2010. House of work will be Wednesday & Thursday nights from 8pm to 8am. Must be able to work unsupervised on own initiative. Experience of working with the elderly preferred. For more information, please contact the Registered Manager, Mrs E. Obousy on 01233 666768 Or e-mail [singletonghomed@madasafish.com](mailto:singletonghomed@madasafish.com)  
**To apply/more information:** Singleton Nursing Home  
**Quoting Job Ref:** kos  
Tel: 01233 666768  
Email [singletonghomed@madasafish.com](mailto:singletonghomed@madasafish.com)

### Other

**Qualified Barber with Wet Shave Experience**  
**Canterbury**

**Salary:** TBA  
Need a new challenge? Are you the best at what you do? Do you need a new challenge? Can you deliver a level of service that exceeds industry standards? Valet Canterbury is THE premier male grooming facility in Kent. The flagship Canterbury store is opening in December and we are looking for highly skilled and motivated team players to join the Valet Canterbury team. As a successful member of the Valet team you will enjoy a strong basic salary and an impressive commission structure. Please email your CV. Shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interview. No agencies.  
**To apply/more information:** Valet Canterbury Ltd  
**Quoting Job Ref:** kos  
Email [recruitment@valet-canterbury.com](mailto:recruitment@valet-canterbury.com)

### Qualified Hair Stylist

**Canterbury**  
**Salary:** TBA  
Are you the best at what you do? Do you need a new challenge? Can you deliver a level of service that exceeds industry standards? Valet Canterbury is THE premier male grooming facility in Kent. The flagship Canterbury store is opening in December, and we are looking for highly skilled and motivated team players to join the Valet Canterbury team. As a successful member of the Valet team you will enjoy a strong basic salary and an impressive commission structure. Please email your CV. Shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interview. No agencies.  
**To apply/more information:** Valet Canterbury Ltd  
**Quoting Job Ref:** kos  
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### HIGHWAYS - District of Ashford

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (GRIBBLE BRIDGE LANE, BIDDENDEN) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that because of carriageway repairs, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Gribble Bridge Lane, Biddenden, between the junctions with Benenden Road and Bugglesden Road, on or after 11 November 2009, for an estimated period of one day or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Benenden Road, Tenterden Road and Bugglesden Road.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (FIELD MILL ROAD, EGERTON) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that because of the installation of a new electrical supply, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Field Mill Road, Egerton between the junctions with Stonebridge Green Road and Coach Road, on or after 9 November 2009, for an estimated period of 5 days or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Stonebridge Green Road and Coach Road.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (A2042 FAVERSHAM ROAD, KENNINGTON) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that because Pedestrian Crossing installation works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on A2042 Faversham Road, Kennington between Trinity Road and Ulley Road on or after 23 November 2009 for an estimated period of four nights or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Trinity Road, Fougères Way, Simone Weil Avenue and Canterbury Road

This order will come into force on Monday 23 November 2009, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected and will remain valid for a period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (CROWBRIDGE ROAD, ASHFORD) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that because of the installation of a new wastewater pipeline, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Crowbridge Road, Ashford as detailed below, on or after 25 November 2009 for an estimated period of 7 working weeks or until the works are complete.

#### Schedule:

<b>Road Name:</b>	<b>Crowbridge Road</b>
<b>Extent:</b>	Approximately 40 metres north of Boys Hall Bridge to the junction with Swallowfields 25 November 2009 for up to three weeks
<b>Dates:</b>	Crowbridge Road, Gladstone Road, Mead Road, Canterbury Road and Crowbridge Link
<b>Diversion:</b>	
<b>Road Name:</b>	<b>Crowbridge Road</b>
<b>Extent:</b>	between the junctions with Swallowfields and Mead Road
<b>Dates:</b>	14 December 2009 for up to 4 working weeks. Work is due to stop between 18 December and 4 January with the road re-opened between these dates.
<b>Diversion:</b>	Mead Road, Canterbury Road, Crowbridge Link and Crowbridge Road

### HIGHWAYS - Borough of Dartford

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL SQUIRES WAY, JOYDENS WOOD (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Squires Way, Joydens Wood between its junctions with Summerhouse Drive to Woodside Drive.

The Order will become effective on 9th November 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 2 days between 08.00 – 17.00 hours. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Woodside Drive, Birchwood Drive, Birchwood Road and Summerhouse Drive.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate thin surfacing works

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL HYTHE STREET & SPITAL STREET, DARTFORD (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Hythe Street and Spital Street, Dartford from 19 to 33 Spital Street through to 43 Hythe Street.

The Order will become effective on 9th November 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to start 14th November 2009 and last 1 day between 06.00 – 19.00 hours. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate Dartford Christmas Lights Event.

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL PRIORY ROAD NORTH, DARTFORD (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Priory Road North, Dartford between its junctions with Victoria Road to Lawson Road.

The Order will become effective on 9th November 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to start 12th November 2009 and last 3 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Victoria Road, Burnham Road and Lawson Road

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate thin surfacing works

### HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL ST FRANCIS AVENUE, GRAVESEND (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on St Francis Avenue, Gravesend between its junctions with Leander Drive to Cambria Crescent.

The Order will become effective on 9th November 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to start 13th November 2009 and last 3 days between 09.00 – 15.00 hours. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Leander Drive, Marling Way, Valley Drive and St Hilda's Way.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate thin surfacing works

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL GREEN FARM LANE, SHORNE (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Green Farm Lane between its junctions with Burdetts Avenue to Coutts Avenue.

The Order will become effective on 9th November 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 1 day. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Green Farm Lane, Lower Road, Taylors Lane, School Lane, Villa Road, Gravesend Road, Green Farm lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate BT works

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL VARIOUS ROADS, GRAVESHAM (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic various roads Gravesham as noted in schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 23rd November 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last as noted in the schedule. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative routes for the above restriction will be via: as attached schedule.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate resurfacing works.

#### Schedule 1

<b>Road Name:</b>	<b>St Johns Road, Gravesend</b>
<b>Extent:</b>	For the whole length
<b>Dates:</b>	25th November 2009 for 3 days between 08.00 – 17.00 hours
<b>Diversion:</b>	Prospect Grove, Camel Road, Russel Road and Norfolk Road for north bound traffic. Then its Norfolk Road, Albion Terrace, Albion Road, Milton Road and Prospect Grove for south bound traffic.
<b>Road Name:</b>	<b>Springhead Road, Gravesend</b>
<b>Extent:</b>	From its junction with London Road to Thames Way
<b>Dates:</b>	30th November 2009 for 4 days between 09.00 – 15.00 hours
<b>Diversion:</b>	Springhead Road, Thames Way, Vale Road, Dover Road and London Road.
<b>Road Name:</b>	<b>Wrotham Road, Gravesend</b>
<b>Extent:</b>	From its junction with Old Road West to Stone Street
<b>Dates:</b>	4th January 2010 for 8 nights between 19.00 – 05.00 hours
<b>Diversion:</b>	Stone Street, Clive Road, Barrack Row, Darnley Road, Old Road West, Wrotham Road for southbound traffic. Then its Wrotham Road, Old Road West, Windmill Street for north bound traffic.
<b>Road Name:</b>	<b>Wrotham Road, Gravesend</b>
<b>Extent:</b>	From its junction with Old Road West to The Fairway
<b>Dates:</b>	4th January 2010 for 8 nights between 19.00 – 05.00 hours
<b>Diversion:</b>	Wrotham Road, Coldharbour Road, Earl Road, Perry Street, Pelham Road and Old Road west

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL LOWER ROAD, NORTHFLEET (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Lower Road, Northfleet between its junctions with Galley Hill Road and Manor Way.

The Order will become effective on 23rd November 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to start 29th November 2009 and last 1 day. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate strengthening works

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL GREEN LANE, MEOPHAM (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Green Lane, Meopham between its junctions with A227 Wrotham Road to Norwood Lane.

The Order will become effective on 23rd November 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 5 days between 08.00 – 17.00 hours. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Norwood Lane and A227 Norwood Lane.

For access to Camer Park - A227 Wrotham Road, The Street, Foxendown Lane and Camer Park Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate strengthening surfacing scheme

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL WHITEPOST LANE, CULVERSTONE GREEN (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Whitepost Lane, Culverstone Green between its junctions with Harvel Road to A227 Wrotham Road.

The Order will become effective on 23rd November 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 3 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: A227 Wrotham / Gravesend Road and Harvel Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate pre patching, ditching, kerbing and gully clearance works

### HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL CHART LANE, BRASTED (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Chart Lane, Brasted outside Pilgroves.

The Order will become effective on 9th November 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 10th November 2009 and last 5 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Chart Lane, High Street, New Road, Emmetts Road and Chart Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate laying cable under ground.

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL OAK LANE, SEVENOAKS (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Oak Lane, Sevenoaks junction of High Street outside Royal Oak Hotel.

The Order will become effective on 9th November 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 7 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Tonbridge Road, Solefields Road, Ashgrove Road and Oak Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate replacement of a bay window.

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL MILL LANE, UNDERRIVER (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Mill lane, Underriver between its Carters Hill and Underriver House Road.

The Order will become effective on 23rd November 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 14 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Underriver House Road and Carters Hill.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate installation of a new electrical supply

**KENT COUNTY COUNCIL VALLEY ROAD, FAWKHAM (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Valley Road, Fawkham north of Pennis Lane.

The Order will become effective on 23rd November 2009 will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 26th November 2009 and last 5 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Fawham Road, Main Road, Longfield, Hartley Road, Ash Road, Hartley Chaplewood Road, Ash Road, Ash, The Street, South Ash Road, Ash Lane, Stanstead Lane, Azo London Road, Fawkham Road, Brands Hatch Road and Valley Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate installation of a new electrical supply

### HIGHWAYS - District of Swale

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (RIDDES ROAD, BORDEN) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that because of carriageway repairs, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Riddles Road, Borden, between the junctions with Borden Lane and College Road, on or after 11 November 2009 for an estimated period of 6 days or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Borden Lane, Homewood Avenue and College Road.

### HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (THE BROADWAY, BROADSTAIRS) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that because resurfacing works works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on The Broadway, Broadstairs from the junction with Gladstone Road to the junction with Osborne Road on or after 24 November 2009 for an estimated period of 3 nights or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via The Broadway, High Street, Queens Road, Ramsgate Road, Bromstone Road & Fairfield Road.

### HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (A20 LONDON ROAD, RYARSH) (30MPH SPEED RESTRICTION) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that because of the likelihood of danger to the public using a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic traveling at any speed greater than 30mph on A20 London Road between Sandy Lane and Blooming Nurseries on or after Monday 9th November 2009 for a period of up to 3 weeks or until such works are completed.

Coinford Construction Limited apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to construct a new traffic island. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Carol Johnson on 01342 840600.

For further information, please contact  
Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate)  
or visit [www.kent.gov.uk/highways](http://www.kent.gov.uk/highways)



**HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tunbridge Wells**

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL**  
(VARIOUS ROADS IN THE BOROUGH OF TUNBRIDGE WELLS)  
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD  
TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC  
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

The Kent County Council acting as the local traffic authority and in exercise of its powers under Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended by Section 14 of the Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Act 1991 and all other enabling powers, hereby intends to make the following Order prohibiting and restricting the use by traffic on the routes described in column 1 of Schedule 1 hereto:-

1. Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road (Necessary highway maintenance), that traffic on various roads in Tunbridge Wells in Column 1 of the schedule 1 hereto will be prohibited or restricted. The alternative route for each route is described in Column 2.
2. The works as cited in 1 above will also require the suspension of the bus lane on Mount Pleasant Road opposite the War Memorial and the prohibition of traffic other than buses and cycles going through the Five Ways bus gateway.

The provisions of the Kent County Council (A263 Mount Pleasant Road, Tunbridge Wells) (Combined Cycle and Bus Lane) Order 2003 and the provisions of Articles 8 and 10 of the Kent County Council (Traffic Restrictions) (Five Ways) Order 1998, are hereby suspended whilst the provisions of this Order are in force.

The order will come into operation on or after 13th November 2009 and will be valid for a maximum period of up to 18 months or until the works are completed. (Whichever is sooner).

Details of the actual dates for the restrictions can be found in column 3 of Schedule 1 below.

This Order may be cited as "The Kent County Council (Various Roads in Tunbridge Wells) (Prohibition of Traffic) Temporary Order 2009".

**Schedule**

The affected routes	The alternative routes	Start and finish dates
<b>A264 Mount Ephraim, Tunbridge Wells.</b> From Lime Hill Road to A26 London Road (Including Grosvenor Road roundabout).	Northbound traffic via A264 Mount Ephraim or A26 London Road, A264 Church Road, A263 Mount Pleasant Road, A263 Grosvenor Road. (And vice versa for Southbound traffic).	<b>Start: 14/11/2009</b> <b>End: 15/11/2009</b>
<b>A26 London Road/ St John's Road, Tunbridge Wells.</b> From A263 Grosvenor Road roundabout to Culverden Park.	Northbound traffic via A263 Grosvenor Road, Upper Grosvenor Road, Highfield Road, High Brooms Road, Yew Tree Road, A26 London Road and A26 St John's Road. (And vice versa for southbound traffic).	<b>Start: 21/11/2009</b> <b>End: 22/11/2009</b>
<b>Suspension of the bus lane on Mount Pleasant Road, Tunbridge Wells opposite the War Memorial and the prohibition of traffic other than buses and cycles going through the Five Ways bus gateway.</b>	Not Applicable	<b>Start: 14/11/2009</b> <b>End: 15/11/2009</b>

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit [www.kent.gov.uk/highways](http://www.kent.gov.uk/highways)


**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS -**  
**NOTICES OF APPLICATIONS**

The following application has been submitted to the Council and is being advertised for the reason(s) given in each case.

TM/09/02237/OA - The Caravan East Street Addington West Malling Kent ME19 5DH - Mr R Hayward is applying for Outline application for four detached houses and associated garages with all matters reserved. Reason: DEPART

**Reason for the case being publicised:**

DEPART Application does not accord with the Development Plan

These applications are displayed on our website [www.tmbc.gov.uk](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk) - click on the button "Online Planning" (then View Existing Applications and select Public Access). You can submit your comments by emailing to [planning.applications@tmbc.gov.uk](mailto:planning.applications@tmbc.gov.uk) (please quote the application number by the date set out below). Please note that we will publish a copy of any representations received on the Council's website, including your name and address.

Copies of applications listed may be seen during office hours (8.30 am and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday). Any applications within Hadlow, Hildenborough and Tonbridge are available at Tonbridge Castle, Tonbridge. Other applications are available at the office of the Director of Planning, Transport & Leisure, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ. Any representations should be made in writing quoting the application number by 29 November 2009.

David Hughes  
Chief Executive

8 November 2009


**The Insolvency Act 1986**  
**MERIDIAN WELDED STRUCTURES**  
**LIMITED**

(In Creditors Voluntary Liquidation)

Notice is hereby given that Duncan Robert Beat of Tenon Recovery, 75 Springfield Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6JB was appointed Liquidator of the above company on 29 October 2009. Further the creditors of the above are required on or before 28 December 2009 to detail their names and addresses (and solicitors if applicable) together with particulars of their debts or claims, in writing, in person, to the Liquidator, and as specified by the Liquidator; or in default thereof they will be excluded from any benefit arising from the liquidation. Dated 29 October 2009  
Duncan Robert Beat, Liquidator

To  
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section



**01303**  
**817040**

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF AN**  
**APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES**  
**LICENCE UNDER SECTION 17 OF**  
**THE LICENSING ACT 2003**

Notice is hereby given that an application was made to Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council for a premises licence under the above Act on the 29th October 2009. Applicant: Navaratnam Krishnamohan. Address of premises: Convenience Store, Watlington Service Station, 115 Tonbridge Road, Watlington, Maidstone, Kent, ME18 5NS. Proposed licensable activities: Sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises. Proposed days and hours of licensable activity: Every day alcohol sales 06.00 to 23.00. The postal address of the Licensing Authority where the register is kept and the application may be inspected is: "Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Licensing Department, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, ME19 4LZ.

Any person wishing to make representations on this matter shall give notice, in writing, stating the nature and grounds for making such representations to The Licensing Officer at the above address\* within 28 days of the date of this notice - by the 26th November 2009. Further information is available on the web site [www.tmbc.gov.uk](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk) following the links.

It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in or in connection with an application and the maximum fine on summary conviction of such an offence is £5000.

Licensing Solutions - duly authorised agents

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## Astra No6 seeks to break free from corporate tangle

FirstDrive

by **STEVE LOADER**

**Vauxhall Astra**

IT WAS doubly appropriate that Vauxhall should use Portmeirion to unveil its impressive new Astra.

The Welsh village and its exotic architecture shot to prominence in the 1960s as a backdrop for the enigmatic cult series *The Prisoner*, starring the late Patrick McGeehan as a secret agent marooned there and known only as 'No6'.

This new Astra is, of course, also No6 in a series stretching back to 1979. What Vauxhall probably didn't want written into its launch though was the unfortunate resemblance between the Astra's arrival and one of the labyrinthine scripts from *The Prisoner*.

Cash-strapped General Motors (GM) has deliberated for months on selling its European arm – the Vauxhall and Opel



**MADE IN THE UK:** Vauxhall's Ellesmere Port production line is safe for now

brands – and which factories might close in the process.

This has threatened Vauxhall's plants at Luton and Ellesmere Port on Merseyside and a re-jig of production capacity is still on the cards, despite GM's decision only this week to retain the European operation.

What is clear though is how Ellesmere Port won its right to build the new Astra fair and square, after working to become Europe's most efficient GM plant; it would be a tragedy now to lose another chunk of Britain's much reduced car industry just as it produced one of its best products ever.

For the new Astra has strength in depth, from similarly slick styling that helped the bigger Insignia to the coveted European Car of the Year 2009 title, right down to attention to interior detail.

The latter includes innovative re-thinking about how people use a typical family hatchback, higher cabin quality and, as with its predecessor, a racy downswept roofline that does not eat into rear headroom.

The family hatch segment is one of the most important in the UK market, currently accounting for 23 per cent of registrations and some 60 per cent of those go to the company and fleet sector.

But motor brands depending on that big

chunk of corporate business, including Vauxhall, want to woo the more discerning and profitable private sector – the Astra is right on the money there.

It drives as well as it looks; the previous car was no slouch in the handling department, but Vauxhall delved into Britain's industrial past and used a Watts linkage for the rear of the chassis – one of many ingenious inventions by 18th century steam pioneer James Watt.

Without going into anorak detail, this device overcomes lateral pressures that act on the rear end of the current car when cornering hard and makes the Astra one of the best handling cars in its sector.

The nimbleness is aided by a revitalised range of engines including an eagerly awaited all-new 140PS (138bhp) 1.4-litre turbo petrol unit, replacing the conventional 1.8 unblown unit of the current car.

We've said it before, but lightweight yet punchy petrol engines are likely to halt the switch to diesel as they begin to deliver more low-down urge, better economy and lower emissions.

This engine certainly sits well here and if you want more petrol power there is also a 180PS 1.6-litre Turbo – the most powerful unit in the line-up for now.

Astra prices start at £15,675.

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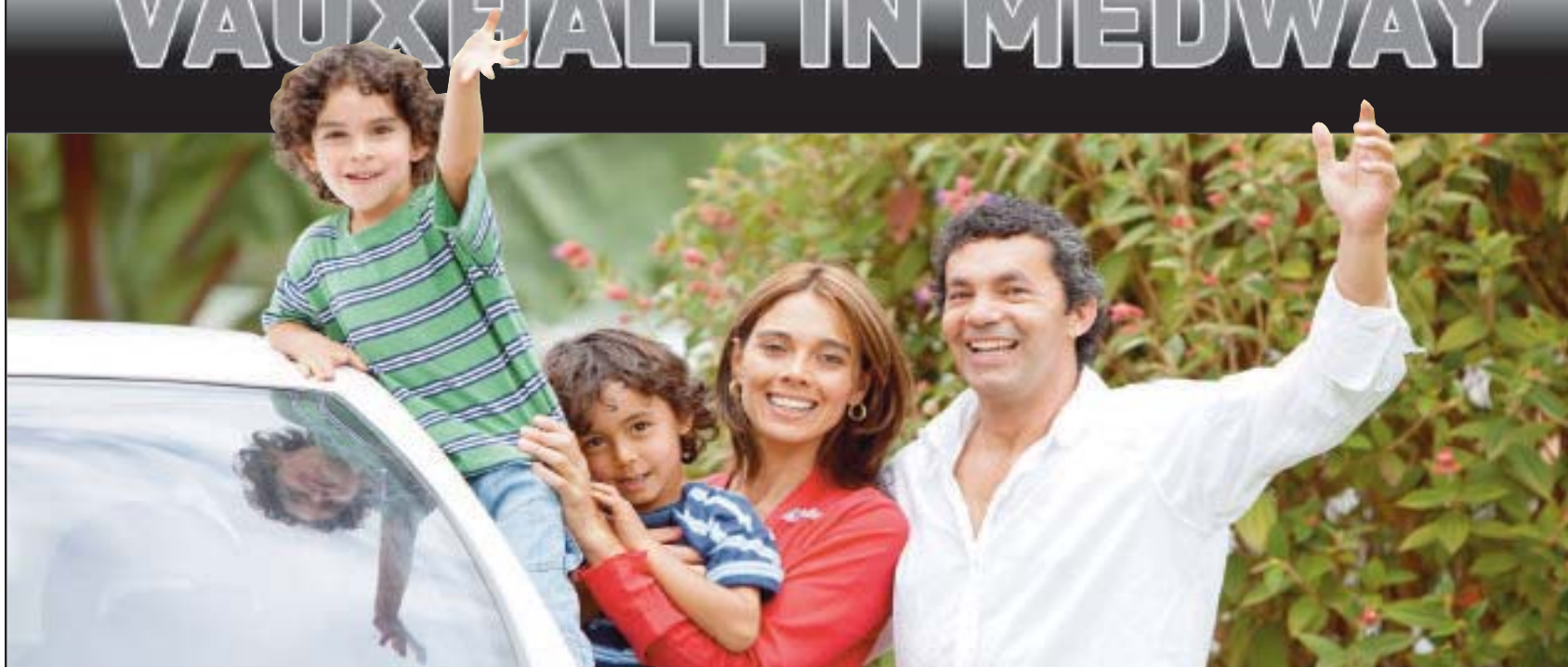
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# FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Matthew Beech



## Blue is the colour when it comes to going green

VOLKSWAGEN'S new Golf BlueMotion is the greenest version ever of the German marque's best-known model.

Emissions are down to a tax-exempt 99g/km and economy is up to an average of more than 70mpg – these are family hatchback sector leading stats.

It's not without style either; the new model gains a sports styling kit, including larger roof spoiler and side-skirts, adding to the car's road presence as well as improving aerody-

namics and economy. Alloys wrapped in low rolling resistance tyres and the Golf's usual standard kit, including ESP, seven airbags, semi-auto climate control and MP3 compatible CD player, also give this eco-friendly car street cred.

A 105PS (104bhp) 1.6 TDI diesel brings power with economy (0-60mph in 11.3 seconds), but it all adds up to a £17,325 price tag – £785 more than a standard equivalent Golf, though you will save on road tax and fuel.

## Nissan drives to buyers' rescue with 4x4 answers

NISSAN'S new interactive website [www.which4x4areyou.co.uk](http://www.which4x4areyou.co.uk) can tell you which of its 4x4s fits your life.

Covering the X-Trail, Pathfinder and Navara models, it can take you through your priorities, from moving a large family about, towing, or moving heavy loads. The site also features videos of the three Nissan 4x4s in challenges against competitors.

In addition, dealers across Kent are also extending the brand's 3+3+3 package on its 4x4s until the end of December: three years' 6.9 per cent APR 'Preferences' finance, three years' free servicing and three years' RAC cover. Brian Smith of Baileys Canterbury



said he was delighted to extend 3+3+3 at a time "when customers are worried about the difficult climate".

**VOLVO** says it has the answer to company car drivers' prayers. It is the new XC60 DRIVE – the suffix being the sub-branding that Volvo has rolled out across the greenest versions in each of its model ranges.

The Ford-owned Swedish brand claims the car offers unrivalled value for money for a premium crossover, and slips perfectly under the 160g/km (£150/year) road tax bracket and attracts favourable benefit-in-kind taxation – a 20 per cent taxpayer will pay less than £100 per month. Coupled with this, residual values remain high at 40 per cent after three years and 60,000 miles.

In everyday use, the high driving position and frugal 2.4-litre diesel powering the front wheels all combine to make the XC60 an aspirational company car contender.



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## MiniTest

by  
**STEVE LOADER**Toyota **IQ3**

IS TOYOTA being just too clever now with the introduction of the bigger-engined IQ3?

Having outsmarted Germany's Smart by the small yet important margins seen in the city car sector, you wonder if the Japanese giant has now lost its marbles.

The move certainly does not add up at first: the IQ3 (from £11,615) is £2,000 dearer than the IQ entry model with the 1.0-litre engine we saw at launch, the bigger engine's higher CO2 emissions (113g/km) means losing exemption from road tax – and coughing up £35 a year – and it averages 5-6mpg less than the smaller engine, depending on whether it is manual or auto.

But a would-be buyer needs to use their own IQ here and work out exactly how they are going to use the car. In three-cylinder 1.0 form, the IQ really is a city car, though there's no reason why you shouldn't drive long distances occasionally, especially as the car's wide track and cabin make it feel like a larger vehicle.

But the four-cylinder 1.3 engine delivers more acceleration and, crucially, more cruising power and refinement than the 'three pot' on the motorway, as I found when road testing a car loaned by Motorline Toyota at Canterbury.

This makes the IQ3 a great commuter car and suited to someone who lives some way from London or has a long commute across Kent, as well as some town driving.

In short, a better all-rounder and potentially someone's only car, whereas the original might

# Not big, but is it clever?



be stretched to fulfil more than the duties of a second car. The IQ3 also suits an automatic gearbox, which in turn fits the ethos of the small city runabout. The original IQ is by no means poor in this area, but the auto gear changes can feel a little more frantic, though nothing like as bad as the Smart's, which can feel like a fairground ride in city traffic.

Overall IQ attributes are impressive too. It is just 30cm longer than the Smart yet gains two extra seats. However, the seat behind the driv-

er is unsuitable even for a child in a child seat, unless the driver is pressed against the windscreen.

The front passenger seat is staggered close to the dashboard though, and this leaves room for an adult to sit behind – just. So we have a 3+1-seat car rather than a full four-seater and the '4+1' is really the boot, as there is barely any space behind the rear seatbacks.

Nevertheless, the IQ is masterly packaging

## DrivingPortfolio

## TOYOTA IQ3 AUTO £12,615

Driving appeal	★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★
Value	★
Reliability	★★★★★
How green?	★★★★★
Road tax	£35/year
Best rival	Smart ForTwo

and its lower stance, combined with its wider track, goes a long way towards overcoming the pitching motion expected from a car with such a short wheelbase. The IQ drives and handles well for its size too. In fact, the larger engine of the IQ3 also settles the car more. Interior quality and trimming are superb, although it could be a bit funkier to take on the Smart. On the other hand, if you want the 'Lexus' of city cars then this is it, and it comes with no less than nine airbags – it may be small, but it is very safe.

OK, there is something of the Lexus about the price and even Motorline admits many buyers turn to the slightly bigger, yet cheaper, full four-seat Aygo.

But Motorline's Canterbury manager Robert Hobbs said: "IQ customers appreciate something a little different. The IQ is a car with intelligent answers to questions often raised with small car packages. It's funky and genuinely fun to drive, with an amazing turning circle, plus a feel of interior quality not seen in such a small car before."

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MODEL	ENGINE	REG	YEAR	MILES	COLOUR	PRICE	MODEL	ENGINE	REG	YEAR	MILES	COLOUR	PRICE
FABIA CLASSIC SDR HATCH	1.2 6v 54 BHP (PETROL)	GF54YBR	OCTOBER '04	44520	SAHARA BEIGE	£4,490.00	FABIA 3 SDR HATCH	1.6 16v 105 BHP (PETROL)	GK57YRU	SEPTEMBER '07	6039	BLACK MAGIC	£9,790.00
FABIA CLASSIC SDR HATCH	1.2 12v 64 BHP (PETROL)	GK03EZJ	JUNE '03	41910	CORRIDA RED	£3,990.00	FABIA CLASSIC SDR ESTATE	1.4 MPI 68 BHP (PETROL)	GK51FWHN	OCTOBER '01	73453	STONE GREY	£3,490.00
FABIA CLASSIC SDR HATCH	1.2 12v 64 BHP (PETROL)	GN04YZA	JUNE '04	24342	GRAPHITE GREY	£4,990.00	FABIA BLUELINE SDR ESTATE	1.2 12v 64 BHP (PETROL)	LY03VVG	AUGUST '03	88394	ADMIRAL BLUE	£3,290.00
FABIA CLASSIC SDR HATCH	1.2 12v 64 BHP (PETROL)	GJ05PKY	MARCH '05	23659	CORRIDA RED	£4,990.00	FABIA 2 SDR ESTATE	1.4 TDI 80 BHP (DIESEL)	GF58AYP	SEPTEMBER '08	TBA	CORRIDA RED	£9,490.00
FABIA COMFORT SDR HATCH	1.4 16v 100 BHP (PETROL)	GK52XYO	NOVEMBER '02	18810	ADMIRAL BLUE	£4,690.00	ROOMSTER LEVEL 2 SDR MPV	1.6 16v AUTO (PETROL)	GJ09NLF	MARCH '09	TBA	POLAR BLUE	£9,990.00
FABIA AMBIENTE SDR HATCH	1.2 12v 64 BHP (PETROL)	KX55GVG	SEPTEMBER '05	36164	SATIN GREY	£5,490.00	ROOMSTER LEVEL 2 SDR MPV	1.4 TDI 80 BHP (DIESEL)	GJ09NLF	MARCH '09	TBA	BLACK MAGIC	£10,490.00
FABIA AMBIENTE SDR HATCH	1.2 12v 64 BHP (PETROL)	GK55NXX	SEPTEMBER '05	14509	GRAPHITE GREY	£5,990.00	ROOMSTER LEVEL 2 SDR MPV	1.4 TDI 80 BHP (DIESEL)	GL09APU	JULY '09	TBA	STORM BLUE	£10,490.00
FABIA AMBIENTE SDR HATCH	1.2 12v 64 BHP (PETROL)	GF07JZE	APRIL '07	17914	CAPPUCCINO BEIGE	£6,790.00	ROOMSTER LEVEL 3 SDR MPV	1.4 TDI 80 BHP (DIESEL)	GK58NNC	SEPTEMBER '08	TBA	ANTHRACITE GREY	£9,990.00
FABIA 1 SDR HATCH	1.4 TDI 80 BHP (DIESEL)	GJ57WCG	OCTOBER '07	24954	SATIN GREY	£8,490.00	OCTAVIA CLASSIC SDR HATCH	1.6 FSI 115 BHP (PETROL)	GJ56TVZ	SEPTEMBER '06	28487	DIAMOND SILVER	£7,290.00
FABIA 2 SDR HATCH	1.2 12v 70 BHP (PETROL)	GN57VVL	SEPTEMBER '07	9339	CAPPUCCINO BEIGE	£7,990.00	OCTAVIA CLASSIC SDR HATCH	1.9 TDI 105 BHP (DIESEL)	GJ55ZJV	SEPTEMBER '05	16374	FLAMENCO RED	£7,490.00
FABIA 2 SDR HATCH	1.2 12v 70 BHP (PETROL)	GK09YFU	MARCH '09	TBA	STORM BLUE	£8,490.00	OCTAVIA CLASSIC SDR HATCH	1.9 TDI 105 BHP (DIESEL)	RH58CAB	NOVEMBER '08	41551	CANDY WHITE	£9,490.00
FABIA 2 SDR HATCH	1.6 16v AUTO (PETROL)	GL09ARZ	JUNE '09	TBA	ARCTIC GREEN	£9,490.00	OCTAVIA ELEGANCE SDR HATCH	1.6 FSI 105 BHP (PETROL)	GK58NNE	SEPTEMBER '08	TBA	FLAMENCO RED	£11,490.00
FABIA 2 SDR HATCH	1.4 TDI 80 BHP (DIESEL)	GJ58SYG	SEPTEMBER '08	TBA	TANGERINE ORANGE	£8,990.00	OCTAVIA ELEGANCE SDR HATCH	1.9 TDI 105 BHP (DIESEL)	GK58NNH	SEPTEMBER '08	TBA	SATIN GREY	£11,790.00
FABIA 2 SDR HATCH	1.9 TDI 105 BHP (DIESEL)	GJ58YSY	SEPTEMBER '08	TBA	SATIN GREY	£9,490.00	OCTAVIA ELEGANCE SDR HATCH	2.0 TDI DSG (DIESEL)	GL58EKH	JANUARY '09	TBA	FLAMENCO RED	£14,990.00
FABIA 2 SDR HATCH	1.9 TDI 105 BHP (DIESEL)	GJ58YSY	SEPTEMBER '08	TBA	CAPPUCCINO BEIGE	£9,490.00	OCTAVIA AMBIENTE SDR ESTATE	2.0 TDI DSG (DIESEL)	GJ08VAV	MARCH '08	TBA	STORM BLUE	£11,990.00
FABIA 2 SDR HATCH	1.9 TDI 105 BHP (DIESEL)	GL09APO	JULY '09	TBA	TANGERINE ORANGE	£9,990.00	OCTAVIA SE SDR ESTATE	1.9 TDI 105 BHP (DIESEL)	GK09YFT	MARCH '09	TBA	CAPPUCCINO BEIGE	£13,390.00
FABIA 3 SDR HATCH	1.4 16v 85 BHP (PETROL)	GL57TMU	DECEMBER '07	10656	ANTHRACITE GREY	£9,290.00							

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Some models shown have optional metallic paint available at an additional cost of £295. Savings shown are against MSRP at time of publication. Prices shown are available on selected WJ King stock only whilst stocks last and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. \*Government Scrappage Allowance and WJ King Allowance is dependent on the vehicle meeting the full Government Scrappage incentive criteria. The Government Scrappage payment applies to vehicles registered on or before 31/03/09 when traded in against a new car subject to conditions. All offers available to private individuals. Offers apply to selected new vehicles ordered between 01/04/09 and 30/11/09 and are subsequently registered before 30/11/09 and are subject to status, eligibility terms and conditions. † Finance subject to status, over 18s only, a guarantee may be required, written quotations available on request. Finance supplied by Alpha Financial Services, Europa House, Bartley Way, Hook, Hampshire, RG27 9UF. † Free insurance offer is underwritten by Provident Insurance PLC. Offer applies to private individuals (excluding Driving Schools). Corsa SXi drivers must be aged between 19-30. Drivers must have held a full UK DVLA Driving Licence for at least two years. A compulsory excess of £250 will apply. Please note additional excesses do apply in respect of young drivers and modifications. † To qualify for Zafira Loyalty allowance of £1500 you must currently own a Zafira model for a minimum of 90 days. Your current Zafira does not need to be part exchanged to claim discount. Terms and conditions apply. A £59 inc. VAT admin fee will be added to all vehicle purchases, this includes £20 worth of fuel. WJ King reserves the right to withdraw any offer at any time. Please note, models portrayed are for illustration purposes only and may not represent actual model. Telephone calls may be recorded for training purposes. ©2009.



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07 57 IBIZA 1.2 Reference Sport 5dr, Black, air con, 20,250m £6,995

06 56 IBIZA 1.4 Sport 5dr, Silver, air con, CD/tuner, fog lights, 16,725m £6,995

07 56 IBIZA 1.4 TDi Reference Sport 5dr, Silver, tinted glass, 22,000m £7,495

08 58 IBIZA 1.2 Freerider 3dr, Silver, auto air con, cruise control, 9,000m £7,795

08 08 IBIZA 1.4 TDi Ecomotive 3dr, Grey, air con, 33,650m £7,995

### LEON

08 58 LEON 1.9 TDi Stylance 5dr, Zenith Grey, climate/cruise control, 13,310m £12,495

08 58 LEON 1.9 TDi Stylance 5dr, Delphin Grey, climate, 13,759m £12,495

07 57 LEON 2.0 TDi Sport DSG Auto, Red, Winter pack, 17,500m £12,495

07 07 LEON 2.0 TDi DPF FR 5dr, Emocion Red, convenience pack, 18,500m £13,495

08 58 LEON 2.0 TDi DPF FR 5dr, Black Magic, climate, fog lights, 7,100m £14,895

09 58 LEON 2.0 TFSi CUPRA 5dr, Speed Blue, Black Cupra interior, 6,650m £17,295

09 09 LEON 2.0 TDi FR, Candy White, 18" alloys, Bluetooth, 7,500m £17,495

### ALTEA

08 58 ALTEA 1.9 TDi Stylance 5dr MPV, Silver, climate, PDC, 6,611m £12,895

08 58 ALTEA 2.0 TDi Freetrack 5dr MPV, Silver, cloth/leather interior, 6,900m £12,995

09 09 ALTEA XL 1.8 TSi Stylance 5dr MPV, Black Magic, tinted glass, 5,000m £13,495

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09 09 EXEO 2.0 TDi SE Saloon, Black Magic, Bluetooth, CD/MP3, 8,000m £14,995



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**DrivingReview**

by  
**STEVELOADER**

CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT  
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

## Peugeot Bipper Tepee

IT MAY be a while before anyone can announce 'I've got a Bipper Tepee' without fear of raising innuendo-laden eyebrows.

I prompted a few this week with Peugeot's new budget MPV; enough to highlight the nation's enduring passion for saucy seaside postcards and dodgy sitcoms of the Are You Being Served and 'Allo 'Allo variety.

The French, of course, will simply shrug and wonder what 'Les Rosbifs' are getting so worked up about this time.

But at least it deflects the usual Postman Pat jibes provoked by van-based people movers like this.

Let's also dispose of other negative observations this week: What's this – the new Popemobile? How did you escape from Legoland? Is this the latest Dyson vacuum cleaner?

With that off my chest, let's check the sheer good sense of the recession-busting Bipper, priced from just £9,995.

# A Bipper Tepee?



It's Peugeot's MPV take on a van, produced jointly with sister brand Citroën and Fiat, using the latter's Grande Punto supermini platform.

This means that, despite the high-sided appearance of the Bipper Tepee – and its Fiat Qubo and Citroën Nemo Multispace equivalents – it handles tidily and really is not that dull to drive.

A good start when you discover how handy the car can be on top of that; the original hi-cube van design means dramatic headroom

and the potential to carry loads of luggage as well as five people in decent comfort.

Tumble the split folding rear seats forward though – and lock in place with primitive yet effective bungee cords provided – or even remove completely and you have a load space that can swallow a large chest of drawers and more.

This is helped by sliding rear side doors and a huge top-hinged tailgate that also doubles as a rain shelter when loading and unloading or simply 'grandstanding' or picnicking at an event.

There is plenty of clever stowage too, though

I was surprised at the lack of overhead lockers, considering that Peugeot pulled out all the stops on its bigger Partner Tepee.

Van origins and budget pricing are also betrayed by pop-out rather than wind down rear windows plus some painted metalwork in the cabin and rubber floor covering, presumably so that you could hose them out. Even at this budget end of the market, dealers may have to throw in some decent mats to clinch a sale.

My car was a top-spec Outdoor, which

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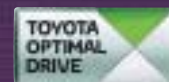
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Excess miles over 30,000	7p per mile

**9.9% APR** TYPICAL\*

### Motorline

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Model shown iQ 1.0 VVT-i 3 dr man £7,615, metallic paint £400 extra.†Scrappage incentive applies to retail customers trading in a car first registered on or before 31.08.99 against the purchase of a new Toyota when ordered between 01.10.09 & 30.11.09 for registration between 01.10.09 & 30.11.09. Offers available at participating Centres only. \*9.9% APR available on model year 2009 iQ 1.0 VVT-i 3 door when ordered, registered & financed through Toyota Financial Services on a 3 year Access Toyota (PCP) Plan with flexible deposits from 0% to 35%. Ts & Cs apply. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s only. Toyota Financial Services, KT18 5UZ. Price correct at time of going to press & includes VAT, del charge, number plates, 1 year's road tax & £55 first registration fee. Subject to availability.

iQ 1.0 VVT-i Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km), Urban 57.7 (4.9), Extra Urban 72.4 (3.9), Combined 65.7 (4.3). CO2 Emissions 99g/km.



# – ooh er Missus



looks chunkier thanks to bigger side protection mouldings, lower front panel trim and standard-fit roof bars. It also gains air-con, front fog lights plus higher suspension and under engine protection – for the more rural-based owner.

Air-con apart though, I question whether a budget-conscious Bipper Tepee buyer would fork out the extra £800 or so for this spec rather than the entry level 'S' package.

Far more difficult is the petrol versus diesel argument and you will need to weigh likely mileage and outgoings carefully. It will cost you an extra £1,000 to have the 70bhp 1.4-litre turbodiesel, but it will average around 60mpg and cost you just £35 a year in road tax due to its low emissions.

It is also a bit quieter than Fiat's 75bhp 1.3-litre diesel option in the Qubo, but it is more sluggish; I know Bipper buyers will not be expecting much, but 0-62mph in nearly 19 seconds is glacial – imagine what it will be like when fully laden.

The 75bhp 1.4-litre petrol alternative is still no flier (0-62mph in 16.6 seconds), but it will save you a grand upfront and every time you



fill up, while still averaging over 40mpg though you will pay £145/year road tax. Insuring any Bipper Tepee is group 2-3.

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## DrivingPortfolio

### PEUGEOT BIPPER TEEPEE OUTDOOR HDI70 £11,795

Driving appeal	★★★
Image	★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★
How Green?	★★★★
Road tax	£35/year
Best rival	Fiat Qubo/Citroën Nemo Multispace

## TheVerdict



### DON'T LIKE:

Obvious penny-pinching such as some spare interior metal and rubber flooring



### NOT SURE:

The car will overcome the Postman Pat jibes despite a funky rear window line



### REALLY LIKE:

No-nonsense versatility and ultra-cheap ownership – a real recession beater

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MRR OTR price* (includes compulsory £120 roadside assistance)	£8885	Amount of credit	£7265
Total amount payable including optional final payment	£9612.20	Agreed annual mileage (excess mileage charges apply)	6000
		Excess mileage charge per mile	8.08p



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Model Shown: CITROËN C2 1.6i 16V 125HP VTS £13685

CITROËN C2 1.4i 8V 75hp VTR		4.9% APR typical <sup>1</sup>	
Per month only	£149.88	Deposit	£2000
Number of payments	36	Optional final payment	£3649
MRR OTR price* (includes compulsory £120 roadside assistance)	£10165	Amount of credit	£8165
Total amount payable including optional final payment	£11044.68	Agreed annual mileage (excess mileage charges apply)	6000
		Excess mileage charge per mile	2.3p



NEW CITROËN C3 PICASSO

CITROËN FINANCIAL SERVICES ELECT 3

NEW CITROËN C3 PICASSO 1.4 16V VTi 95HP EXCLUSIVE		4.9% APR typical <sup>1</sup>	
Per month only	£226.01	Deposit	£2000
Number of payments	36	Optional final payment	£4926
MRR OTR price* (includes compulsory £120 roadside assistance)	£13935	Amount of credit	£11815
Total amount payable including optional final payment	£15062.36	Agreed annual mileage (excess mileage charges apply)	6000
		Excess mileage charge per mile	2.54p

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08 58	Skoda Auto Octavia Ambiente Tdi Auto 1.9 5 Door Hatchback Finished in Silver With Black Interior With under 18800 miles	£11,995
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08 58	Skoda Octavia Vrs Tdi Cr 2.0 5 Door Hatchback Finished in Red With Black Interior With under 3400 miles	£15,995
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09 09	Skoda Superb Se Cribi 2.0 Saloon Finished in Red With Black Interior With under 2000 miles	£16,995
08 58	Skoda Superb Elegance Tdi 1.9 5 Door Hatchback Finished in With Leather Interior With under 8100 miles	£19,495
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2006 56	SAAB 9-3 1.9TID Vector Sport, 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Diesel, 10,500 miles, Met grey, Heated door mirrors, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Steering wheel reach adjustment, Cruise control, Front electric windows, Alloy wheels, Immobiliser, Electric door mirrors, Rear electric windows, ABS, Sports seats, Front fog lights, Front head restraints, Remote central locking, Drivers airbag, Anti theft system, Electric mirrors, Alarm, Front armrest, PAS, Air con, Central locking, C/C, Foglights, FSH, Sat Nav, Mobile phone Bluetooth connection, Business Pack, 6 Speed gearbox ..... <b>£8,495</b>
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2005 05	SAAB 9-3 1.8T Linear Sport, 4 Doors, Automatic, Saloon, Petrol, 63,277 miles, Metallic Grey, 2 Owners, Cruise control, Alloy wheels, Immobiliser, Multi function steering wheel, ABS, Cloth seat trim, Full Electric Pack, Reverse parking aid, Part Service History, Air conditioning, Climate Control, Park distance control ..... <b>£7,495</b>
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09 59	CORSA 1.3 CDTi Active	£12,755	£9,995	£2,760
09 59	INSIGNIA 1.8 Exclusive 5dr H/B	£18,460	£14,495	£3,965
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09 09	AGILA 1.2 Design 5dr H/B	£10,945	£8,995	£1,950

08 58	CORSA 1.3 CDTi SXI 5dr H/B Silver Lightning Under 9,000 miles	£8,995
08 08	CORSA 1.4 Club Auto 5dr H/B Silver Lightning Under 16,000 miles	£9,795
08 08	CORSA 1.2 Breeze 3dr H/B Silver Under 14,000 miles	£7,995
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09 09	ZAFIRA 1.6 Active + Sovereign Silver Under 20,000 miles	£15,995
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05 05	INSIGNIA 2.0 SE CDTi 160 PS 5dr H/B Sovereign Silver Under 12,000 miles	£16,495
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09 09	AVEO 1.2 LS 5dr H/B Blue Demo please call	£6,995
09 09	MATIZ 0.8 SE Automatic 5dr H/B Black Demo	Please Call
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**SIRION**, 1.0 S 5 Door, 11/2006, t.b.a, silver, 30, 000 miles, £5750, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

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**FIESTA**, Fun Encore 3dr, y859bkk, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, rear wash/wipe, stereo, blue, 91000 miles, £1999, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

**S-MAX**, 1.8 TDCi ZETEC 5DR [5], gn08kxf, 18429 miles, £15490, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

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**MAGENTIS**, GS Crdi, fg56 hvn, air conditioning, abs, power steering, twin air bags, curtain airbags, cd player, radio, electric windows, electric mirrors, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, remote central locking, remote alarm, cloth upholstery, height adjustable seat, alloy wheels, black, 23100 miles, £4995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

**PICANTO**, SE 5dr, mf04nje, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, cd player, air conditioning, electric windows, 14" alloys, aluminium silver, 70000 miles, £2999, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

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# This transport momentum must continue, says survey

By **ANDY ROGERS**

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

INVESTMENT in Kent's transport network is crucial to its economic future, according to a major report from Invest Thames Gateway.

It reveals 81 per cent of senior business people surveyed said road, rail, sea and air facilities are more important than ever for business on a national, local and international level.

And 63 per cent said transport was essential to attract an increasingly mobile and demanding workforce.

More than half (52 per cent) cited globalisation of business as driving demand for efficient and integrated transport networks, while 46 per cent disputed the popular view that 'virtual' meetings and communications reduced the need for business transport – it is no substitute for real time face-to-face contact, they argued.



Picture: ADY KERRY

**FAST TRACK:** Developments such as the new high-speed domestic rail services to the capital are crucial to Kent's future prosperity, says Invest Thames Gateway

Half of respondents also cited committed Government support to transport infrastructure as essential to their future investment decisions. The investment agency's report, called Smart Connections: The Essential Role

of Transport for Borderless Business, drew on opinions from more than 300 senior international business people.

Invest Thames Gateway MD Gareth John said: "The report provides vital insight into

the crucial role transport plays and will continue to play in the future economic success of locations.

"The Thames Gateway, which benefits from unrivalled connections to London and mainland Europe, gives the region the potential to become one of the UK's most exciting and well-connected business investment locations."

The report suggests that as cities, regions and countries fight for future investment spend, transport infrastructure is the 'x-factor' in investor decisions.

It believes Thames Gateway – a 40-mile stretch north and south of the Thames Estuary including the north Kent coast – is already a thriving link between London and Europe through high-speed rail, major road networks and sea and airports.

Recent infrastructure projects have already enhanced the region's overall competitiveness it added, with highlights including: the high-speed domestic rail link, Crossrail, Eurostar at Ebbsfleet, a new deep water port at Shell Haven, extensions to the East London Line and new developments at London City Airport.

## Splash the cash: £3m Euro-boost for coastal towns

KENT'S reviving coastal towns have received £3 million in aid to attract more visitors and stimulate business.

Kent County Council and Visit Kent – the county's tourism agency – working with cross-Channel partners have beaten competition from other European areas to secure EU grants for two tourism projects.

Three other EU grants worth an additional £1.3m were also approved for the county.

One of the twin tourism successes is Greet The World, which is worth about £1m to the county and capitalises on cultural and sporting developments taking place in the cross-Channel region over the next three years, including the 2012 London Olympics,

and Margate's Turner Contemporary Gallery.

Activities planned include a cross-Channel Big Day Out for residents, a cross-border tourism guide for businesses, development of a cross-Channel access website, and a media campaign for both sides of the water.

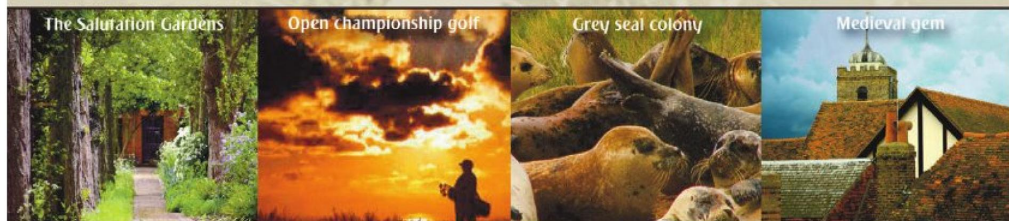
A further £700,000 will be spent in Kent on Coastal Actions on Sustainable Tourism, involving local people as champions for their community and targeting new visitor groups by changing their perceptions of coastal areas.

Activities will include developing a network of local volunteers, organising activity weekends, using new technologies to promote attractions and analysing

tourism facilities. Kent organisations have now landed more than £7m in such EU aid. KCC deputy cabinet member for international relations, Alan Marsh, said: "KCC has a track record of success in securing European funding. This has been achieved by a very small group of dedicated people working with different partners on various projects, using their expertise to identify suitable bids for the benefit of Kent."

The three smaller EU-sponsored projects were for ports such as Ramsgate to provide pontoon mooring for vessels involved in offshore wind farms off the Kent coast; for green tourism centres at Reculver and Romney Marsh; and for expert teaching for young composers on both sides of the Channel.

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# Recession-busters stake

**D**EFIANCE in the face of recession characterised winning entries in countywide publisher KOS Media's inaugural £1m Business Challenge Awards, *writes Andy Rogers*.

The publisher of this newspaper and the Yourlocals midweek series, plus leading Kent websites under the www.kentnews.co.uk banner, conceived the challenge early this year.

KOS Media managing director Paul Stannard said: "We wanted to encourage local businesses and organisations to stand up in the face of an economic downturn and show that our county's business community is determined to thrive and not just survive."

"We challenged them to give us a reason to help them reach out to more of their customers and communities with our £1m advertising and marketing prize fund."

More than 200 entries were received, all looking to impress the judges with their passion, drive and vision. Those who were short-listed attended an awards and gala dinner at the Tudor Park Hotel, Bearsted, Maidstone, where Mr Stannard told them: "KOS Media's own business has won national awards in the last seven years, includ-

**'We wanted to give our winners real long-term publicity over a sustained period'**

KOS Media MD Paul Stannard

ing UK Regional Newspaper of the Year seven times.

"But shortly after you win an award and the euphoria dies down, you have to ask yourself – apart from the feel-good factor for the staff – what else do you get out of it, other than a nice trophy or a certificate to hang on the wall?"

"So we got together with our directors and sponsors and said, 'Let's really do something big, where we give the winners real long-term publicity through our newspapers, websites, magazines and online TV for a sustained period – not just the week after winning the award'."

Everyone on the shortlist received a £500 share of the £1m prize fund. Highly Commended entrants each received another voucher for £1,000 of advertising and the £900,000 balance was shared among the 10 winners.

KOS Media's Yourkenttv presenter Julie Maddocks hosted the awards, which were attended by 120 people. She said the event celebrated "some of the most incredible people and their businesses and organisations in Kent" during a period of great economic uncertainty.

Competition had been fierce, she said, and the judges had faced some tough decisions.



**'Even for a bank like us it is very difficult to get the column inches against the big commercial banks that spend millions on advertising. We don't have those resources, so this is a tremendous fillip for us.'**  
Malcolm Hayday, Charity Bank

**DOUBLE DELIGHT:** Innovation and Employer Awards winner Charity Bank's chief executive Malcolm Hayday, left, is congratulated by Chris Took of PageSuite



**THREE CHEERS:** Highly Commended in the Charity Award were the RSPCA Isle of Thanet Branch incorporating the East Kent Animal Centre (Daphne Harris), The Caldecott Foundation (Steve Anderson) and The Aspinall Foundation (Eddie Kemsley)




**ALL SMILES:** Highly Commended in Leisure and Tourism, Matt Collins of the Bell Hotel, Sandwich; and Peter d'Aguilar of Bedgebury Pinetum and Forest



**FOUR FRIENDS:** Highly Commended in the Employer Award were D&D Autos (Derek Pestridge), Porchlight (Lisa Oeder) and GerrardWhite (Tanya and Anthony Gerrard-White)

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Managing director Paul Stannard makes the opening address during KOS Media's £1m Business Challenge Awards night



# claim in £1m prize fund



**FUTURE SKILLS:** Training and Staff Development Award winner Chris Brichard, left, MD of South East Coachworks, is congratulated by Tom Legg of the Marriott Tudor Park Hotel



**SAFE HANDS:** Richard Knox-Johnston, left, of Protect Kent, receives his Charity Award from broadcaster Glen Thompson during the KOS Media £1m Business Challenge Awards

## THE NIGHT'S WINNERS, HIGHLY COMMENDED AND SPONSORS

**Charity Award Winner:** Protect Kent – CPRE (Council for the Protection of Rural England)

**Highly Commended:** RSPCA Isle of Thanet branch incorporating East Kent Animal Centre, Aspinall Foundation and Caldecott Foundation  
Category sponsor – Keel Toys

**New Business/Product Award Winner:** Move'n'Smooth  
**Highly Commended:** UBLow, Herne Bay Mobility and Mediterranean Direct  
Category sponsor – Adams Creative

**Innovation Award Winner:** Charity Bank  
**Highly Commended:** Scents of Time, TextQube and Jali  
Category sponsor – PageSuite

**Public Sector Award Winner:** Fulston Manor School  
**Highly Commended:** Education Sense and Kent Youth Theatre  
Category sponsor – Burgess Hodgson Chartered Accountants

**Community Award Winner:** Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre  
**Highly Commended:** Theatre Royal, Margate  
Category sponsor – KOS Media

**Employer Award Winner:** Charity Bank  
**Highly Commended:** D&D Autos, GerrardWhite and Porchlight  
Category sponsor – Cardy

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**Leisure and Tourism Award Joint Winners:** The Secret Gardens of Sandwich; Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust  
**Highly Commended:** Bell Hotel and Bedgebury National Pinetum and Forest  
Category sponsor – Heart FM

**Retailer Award Winner:** Macknade Fine Foods  
**Highly Commended:** Ecorium, Jali and Heading Up The Aisle  
Category sponsor – Coast Communications

**Service Award Winner:** Basepoint  
**Highly Commended:** Housemartins and Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust  
Category sponsor – Brachers Solicitors

**Training and Staff Development Award Winner:** South East Coachworks  
**Highly Commended:** GerrardWhite, Kent Trainers, Unlimited Potential and Porchlight  
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## Roy celebrates 30 years – man and boy – with DSH

ROY Coates, who joined Maidstone-based DSH chartered accountants and business advisers as a teenage school-leaver, is celebrating 30 years with the firm.

Now 49, Roy joined DSH as a trainee accountant in 1979 and worked his way up to partner in 1988.

“The greatest change I have seen over the years has been in communication,” he said.

“When I started, if you couldn’t reach someone by phone you would have to write them a letter and invite them to come in and see you. Now that we have mobiles and emails, communication is so much quicker and easier.”

Roy lives with his wife and two children at Borden, near Sittingbourne. They share a love of exotic holidays, which have included an African safari and a stay in Las Vegas.



ANNIVERSARY:  
Roy Coates

# Comms operator opens up African phone links



VISION: Carsten Brinkschulte

INTERNATIONAL communications firm Synchronica, based in Tunbridge Wells, has landed a \$270,000 deal to supply its award-winning mobile email product Mobile Gateway.

The system is claimed to offer a genuine alternative in areas where personal computer infrastructure is poor.

The customer is a Southern African mobile phone operator and this is the fourth such deal the company has signed in that region, and the 11th contract this year.

The unnamed operator will use Synchronica’s Mobile Gateway to offer push email and data services to its subscribers. The firm says the beauty of its system is that it can work with everything from high-end Smartphones to low-cost entry level handsets.

According to research by auditors Ernst & Young, the African telecoms market is expected to grow faster than any other over the next five years.

Market penetration for mobile phones on the continent has now reached 37 per cent and is tipped to rise to more than 60 per cent by 2012.

Synchronica chief executive Carsten Brinkschulte said: “Our fourth customer win in the fast-growing emerging Africa telecoms market shows the attractiveness of our offering in regions where PC ownership is low and where operators can offer email and mobile synchronisation direct to customers with any type of handset, particularly to those with the most basic mobile phones.”

“Operators in Africa have the opportunity to establish the mobile phone as the primary device for mobile internet access and Synchronica provides a key component to turn this vision into reality.”

Synchronica has its headquarters in Lonsdale Gardens, Tunbridge Wells, with subsidiary offices in Hong Kong, the USA, Dubai and Germany.

The company is also developing its own low-cost handsets in tandem with its Mobile Gateway system and announced an order for 25,000 – for an undisclosed sum – also bound for Africa.

■ KENT brewer Shepherd Neame has won two industry awards for delivering a great pint and excellent customer service in its pubs.

The nationwide OnTrack survey involved nearly 5,000 pub-goers across the country. Faversham-based Sheps won Best Overall Pub Retailer, based on customer satisfaction with service efficiency, quality of food and drinks served, and how they perceive the pub as part of the community.

The brewer also won Best Pub Retailer for Quality of Serve, based on how customers viewed the way their drinks were presented, with criteria for a perfect pint including: glass cleanliness, beer temperature and the right amount of head on the beer.

Shepherd Neame’s Nigel Bunting said: “We are delighted to win these prestigious OnTrack awards for customer service, especially up against competition from major national pub companies.

“The awards are even more pleasing as they were decided by customers. These accolades are testament to our commitment to training to high standards of customer service and serving a great pint.”

Shepherd Neame owns 368 pubs and hotels across London and the South East, with 251 in Kent.

■ PARCEL carrier DPD of Riverside Business Park in Larkfield has won the top award for Innovation in Delivery.

This accolade is given by the e-Commerce Awards for Excellence in association with the ‘the voice of e-Retail’ IMRG (Interactive Media in Retail Group).

DPD was applauded for offering new home delivery services, including the ability to notify the recipient of parcel delivery, to change delivery to another date if required, and an optional ‘deliver to neighbour’ service if the recipient cannot be at home to accept delivery.

“The home delivery market is of huge importance and it is a great accolade that we are recognised as leading the way for the parcels sectors,” said DPD chief executive Dwain McDonald.

He added that the new DPD services also had environmental benefits. More ‘right first time’ deliveries mean fewer return journeys, so fewer vehicles on the road, reducing fuel use and lower carbon emissions.

■ A SEMINAR to support women taking the first steps to run their own business has been set up by the East Kent Enterprise Gateway.

The event on Friday, November 13, starts Enterprise Week (November 16-20) and was instigated by director Dorothy Thom, who said it was a forum allowing everyone to “share their experiences and get the inspiration to keep moving forward. It will also be an opportunity to meet like-minded women.”

It will be from 9am-1pm in the Marlborough Room, Hall Place Enterprise Centre, Harbledown, Canterbury. Book via Caroline Brett on caroline.brett@businesslinkkent.co.uk or 01304 827446.

Business Link’s East Kent Enterprise Gateway Service, which offers support to those facing unemployment and considering self-employment is also co-sponsoring – with Kent Business Link – another seminar, at Chartham village hall on Monday November 16, from 9am-1pm, hosted by Friends in Business – local self-employed women who meet fortnightly.

Self-employed, freelance entrepreneurs, and small and medium-sized businesses are invited to this free networking and training event. Motivational speaker Jill Tipping will headline and Friends in Business members will lead workshops. A free lunch and goodie bag are included.

Book via www.friends-in-business.org or ring Sue Nyirenda at 01304 842009.

## Trebling sales show no waste at C&M

RECYCLING firm C&M Waste Management is bucking the economic trend with sales growth of more than 300 per cent and a doubling of staff numbers over the past year.

Newly located in Smeeth, near Ashford, C&M’s established business includes recycling and waste management services and on-site facility management tailored to clients’ needs and sourcing specialist national suppliers.

The company’s rapid growth has brought 25 new accounts in the last year, which will create further jobs.

“Our aim at C&M is to deliver a service to our customers which is second to none and to fulfil this we are constantly looking towards increasing our resources to meet the demands of our growing client portfolio,” said managing director Chris Prinn.

“Despite nationally and globally difficult trading conditions over the last 12 months, we continue to prove that businesses in certain sectors can indeed flourish.

“More expansion is planned with the possibility of the acquisition of other companies in the recycling or waste management sector.”

• Pictured are (left to right): directors Mike Annett, Chris Prinn and Darren Harden.





**REAPING REWARDS:** The farming revival is under way and the industry offers career opportunities for people of all ages and abilities



# Calling all potential farmers

ANALYSTS tell us the recession is still biting hard and some sectors are even continuing the downward spiral, **writes Pat Crawford.**

Among all the dismal reports and negative predictions though, one industry is showing real signs of sustainable revival – farming.

In fact, the sector usually branded as ‘farming’ is broken up by the industry itself into segments consisting of different forms of agriculture and horticulture.

The names don't really matter; what is important is their relationship to food production.

Food production, in its various forms, was once Britain's most important industry. It slid down the prosperity ladder for all sorts of reasons, some related to the global market and cheap imports from countries with far lower production costs.

This in turn led to loss of ‘seasonality’. A revolution in food sourcing was occurring and the British farmer soon had his back against the wall.

## Food miles

That is changing, in a big way. Consumers want food produced in this country, not something totting up food miles travelling round the world. They want to know how their food is produced, especially if it relates to livestock and involves standards of animal husbandry – the UK has the best in the world.

Consumers also know population increases are going to start threatening food security globally. As a result, we shall be more and more dependant on our own farmers to put food on our plates. We need to start taking out insurance now against going hungry later and that has to involve farmers raising production.

The farming revival is well under way but, unless there is drastic change, a lack of ambitious new entrants will hold up the industry.

This is solvable though. There are people of

all ages and from all walks of life who would like to know more about careers in farming.

Some of them may have had a secret yearning to be a hands-on farmer for years.

Some are still at school. Some may have been made redundant or suffered a similar setback and are seeking a change in career direction. Some may have good academic, and other, qualifications. Others may not. And there will be some who like the idea of the industry yet don't actually want to be a hands-on farmer, but would like to be involved in research or marketing or another support service.

One of the problems with investigating career opportunities in any business area is that access to information is often vague.

Generally, farming is no exception, which may explain why career advisers and others tend to be rather ill-informed about what the industry really can offer.

But structured help is at hand from a new website: [www.careersinfarming.co.uk](http://www.careersinfarming.co.uk).

This provides information about a training scheme called Fresh Start. Even better, Hadlow College, near Tonbridge, is holding a live Fresh Start event: a friendly and informal meeting on Wednesday, December 2, with a welcoming drink at 6.30pm and chance to chat and discuss before a short presentation at 7pm.

Then comes question time, when attendees can find out about the Fresh Start Academies and other training programmes – Hadlow offers a huge range, including degrees.

Several farmers will be available to give their insight into what farming has to offer. Anyone wanting to attend the informal meeting can email [susan.white@hadlow.ac.uk](mailto:susan.white@hadlow.ac.uk) or call 01732 853266.

## MORTGAGE RATES

RT: Rate type R%: Rate percentage L: Loan U: Until  
OD: Other details

### FIXED

#### WOOLWICH

RT: FIXED R%: 3.79% L: 70% U: 31/01/2012  
OD: £1,329

#### MORTGAGE BOX ITL

RT: FIXED R%: 4.89% L: 75% U: 31/03/2011  
OD: £1,184

### PRINCIPALITY

RT: FIXED R%: 4.99% L: 75% U: 31/12/2012  
OD: £1,339

### ABBEEY

RT: FIXED R%: 3.99% L: 70% U: 02/01/2012  
OD: £1,030

### OTHER

#### ABBEEY

RT: TRACKER R%: 2.79% L: 70% U: 3 YEARS  
OD: £1,030

#### DARLINGTON

RT: DISCOUNTED VARIABLE R%: 3.15% L: 70% U: 30/11/2011  
OD: £1,320

#### NORTHERN ROCK

RT: TRACKER R%: 2.75% L: 70% U: 01/01/2012  
OD: £1,030

#### ALLIANCE & LEICESTER

RT: TRACKER R%: 2.79% L: 70% U: 3 YEARS  
OD: £1,305

• THESE RATES CANNOT BE GUARANTEED AND ARE CORRECT AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS

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\* PREMIUMS ARE ON A JOINT LIFE BASIS & ARE GUARANTEED & ASSUME THAT THE COVER PROVIDED DECREASES OVER THE TERM OF THE CONTRACT & ARE BASED ON NON-SMOKER RATES AND ASSUME ACCEPTANCE AFTER UNDERWRITING AT ORDINARY RATES

COUPLE AGED 25		COUPLE AGED 30		COUPLE AGED 35		COUPLE AGED 40	
AVIVA	£21.74	AVIVA	£28.57	AVIVA	£41.46	AVIVA	£64.02
AXA	£22.93	AXA	£30.42	FRIEND PROVIDENT	£44.27	ZURICH	£68.11
ZURICH	£23.05	FRIEND PROVIDENT	£31.23	AXA	£44.34	FRIENDS PRVNT	£68.94
LV=	£23.65	BUPA	£31.99	SCOT PROVIDENT	£46.62	SCOT PROVIDENT	£72.87
BUPA	£23.73	LV=	£32.03	LV=	£46.72	AXA	£75.70

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## Net-Text's booming demand

KENT animal health products company Net-Text Industries has added a third factory to cope with booming demand over the past year.

Known for sheep, cattle, horse, poultry and pet remedies and the Collate range of nutritional products, it has opened the 40,000 sq ft extension at its Rochester production site.

MD Tony Meakin believes the recession has driven farmers and animal keepers to seek lower-cost yet effective solutions to husbandry problems, and Net-Text products can be bought without prescription from any agricultural, equine or pet store.

Sales and marketing director Kevin Perry said £100,000 had also been spent on new equipment because of changing market demand and higher quality standards in the industry.

The vogue for keeping small numbers of chickens has also caused the company to pro-

duce higher numbers of small pack sizes.

Mr Meakin said: "We are now the most comprehensive one-stop shop supplier for agricultural and equine outlets.

"We have increased our export business. Last year we were appointed as a major supplier to the French-based Decathlon group, a multinational company with a turnover of 10.4 billion euros per annum with more than 350 stores around the world who ask us to print their labels in 16 languages.

"This year we are hitting high-profile high street favourites such as Vital, Pets At Home, Dobbies Garden Centres and Pets Corner outlets.

"By opening a further factory, we can continue to offer quality innovative products at competitive prices, as well as offering a consistent and reliable supply source."





## Timeline

Kent on Sunday sport takes a look back at the county's sporting action of yesteryear



**100 YEARS AGO:** A CROWD of more than 7,000 watched New Brompton win a five-goal thriller against Swindon Town in the Southern League.

Brompton were a goal down at the break and the visitors quickly added a second, but Reid pulled one back with a penalty and Pickett equalised.

A late spell of pressure eventually yielded a winner from Taylor, to the delight of the crowd.

Kent's top-flight side Woolwich Arsenal, lost 1-0 at Old Trafford to Manchester United, with the reporter observing United were "somewhat lucky" - and not for the last time.

In the Kent League, champions Northfleet United thrashed Maidstone United 5-1 at the Athletic Ground, while Dartford won their derby with Gravesend United 2-0, in front of 2,500. Gravesend's best crowd of the season. Sittingbourne were held to a 2-2 draw by Chatham Naval Depot.



**GROUND ROW:** The Mote were told to cough up for road improvements



**50 YEARS AGO:** THE future of cricket at one of Kent's out grounds was called into doubt when The Mote was told its appeal against a fee of more than £1,000 for road improvements to a public highway had been rejected.

Maidstone Town Council argued The Mote should pay around an eighth of the total costs, based on the number of days per year the road was used for cricket and football and the length of the site that backed on to Willow Way.

JF Gulland, representing the Mote, argued the club had no way of recouping these costs and pointed out it faced a constant battle to maintain both the ground and its buildings. He also warned the future of cricket week was in jeopardy if funds were diverted away from essential maintenance.

The magistrate, John Day, rejected his plea, saying the council's bill was "very fair".



**25 YEARS AGO:** KENT decided not to offer Terry Alderman a contract for the 1985 season, despite taking 76 first-class wickets and 38 in one-day games during the 1984 season.

Alderman was drafted in as a late replacement for Eldine Baptiste, who was touring with the West Indies and the county opted to go back to Baptiste for the 1985 campaign.

Derek Underwood, commuting to London from Sevenoaks every day of the winter to work for a job in sales co-ordination, said he hoped he would still be considered for England selection when his three-year ban for taking part in a rebel tour of South Africa ended.

"I'm not even sure when the ban officially ends, but I would like to think I am still in the reckoning," he said. "I like to think that had I been eligible I might have been considered for this winter's Tour of India, although perhaps the selectors would still have chosen a younger man."

"Present-day cricket demands a high standard of fitness, but I feel I can go on playing."

# Tulloch hangs tough to clinch British title

## Teen targets an Olympic spot after stunning display

By **STEVE TERTVET**

KENT is celebrating a British gymnastic champion after 14-year-old Courtney Tulloch claimed gold at the Men's Artistic Championships in Dagenham.

Tulloch, who has designs on a place in Great Britain's Olympic team, produced an astounding display on the rings to see off his nearest rivals, although he was narrowly edged into silver for the overall competition.

With silver and bronze medals on the pommel and floor respectively, taking his personal tally to four, Tulloch spearheaded a successful weekend for Maidstone's Pegasus Gymnastics Club, but says his best has yet to come.

He said: "I did well but I could have done better. I messed up on the vault and parallel bars but I'm still happy to come second. Rings is my best piece, so I was expected to come first there."

"I was happy when I won and so was Lonut [Trandaburu, Tulloch's coach]."

"My real target is to be at the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro in 2016, but the Junior Europeans and World School Games are the ones I'm targeting next."

Tulloch's club-mates, James Hall and Joel Burch, were also in action at Dagenham's

Pegasus, spent six years as part of the Romanian Olympic team and says all three



**CHAMPION:** Courtney Tulloch claimed gold on the rings while team-mate James Hall (inset) just missed out on a bronze on the vault

Goresbrook Leisure Centre, with Hall 0.1 of a point from a bronze medal on the vault and Burch finishing in a personal best sixth position on the rings.

Trandaburu, who coaches the trio at Pegasus, spent six years as part of the Romanian Olympic team and says all three

boys can emulate his achievements with sufficient dedication.

"At the moment, these boys are national level and they can go on to perform internationally," he said. "So much of being a gymnast is down to mental ability and we're not talking about a sport, we're talking about a lifestyle."

"I believe Courtney can win every competition he enters, but we just work on making the execution of the routines clean and accurate. If we do that, the results will follow."

Pictures: HELEN COOPER



## End of a distinguished innings

AN ERA ended this week when Hugh Dinwiddy OBE, Kent's oldest surviving cricketer, passed away at the age of 97.

Born in 1912 in Kensington, Dinwiddy's first-class career was relatively unremarkable, but he achieved a certain distinction by becoming the last cricketer alive to have played with both Sir Donald Bradman and Jack Hobbs.

Reportedly a terrific fielder in the covers, he looked set for great things when he scored a double-century for Kent's seconds against Devon in 1933, a knock that earned him a call to the first-team.

Yet although he made 45 in his second game against Surrey at Blackheath, that proved the high watermark for his career.

Hobbs, then 50, wished Dinwiddy the best of luck, but he would only make a total of 15 first-class appearances for Kent and Cambridge University over the next three seasons.

He never again passed that score and

although he was listed as a leg-spinner, in a meagre six overs he failed to take a single wicket.

He did get the chance to play against Bradman in a 1934 tour match for the students, but made 0 and 2 as they lost by an innings and 163 runs.

"He didn't say much to me," was his recollection of the Don - not an uncommon reaction among contemporaries.

Dinwiddy switched to rugby, winning Cambridge Blues in 1934 and 1935 and earning an unsuccessful trial with England a year later.

He later taught at Ampleforth College, served with the Royal Navy and lived in Uganda where he helped establish a university, earning an OBE.

He returned to England in 1970, though he continued to write on African affairs.

He died peacefully on October 31 in Bognor Regis, West Sussex, surrounded by his family.



**OPPONENT:** Legend Sir Donald Bradman

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# Staff in the sprint to defend Olympic title

## Fast start to season gives veteran racer renewed hope

By **TOM HOWARD**

OLYMPIC champion Jamie Staff has given the clearest indication yet that he wishes to defend his Team Sprint title at the London 2012 Games.

After winning gold in Beijing a year ago, the Kent cyclist has often played down any speculation that he will appear at London 2012.

However, after six months out of the sport during the summer and a blistering start to the new season, he appears to have changed his tune and is determined to be in the running for when the Games arrive at these shores.

The 36-year-old, from Ashford, would be 39 and one of the oldest riders competing by the time the 2012 Games begin.

He, however, is realistic about his chances of racing in London as pressure is increasing on the more experienced riders from the younger generation, who are themselves staking a claim for future squad places.

### Improving

"I would like to be at London to defend my title," Staff said defiantly. "I know there are an awful lot of young riders that are just getting quicker and quicker."

"Everyone is improving and I think even Chris Hoy is in much better shape than he was in Beijing, which is frightening. Jason Kenny, who won gold with us at Beijing, is not even in the top three at the moment, which shows how competitive it is."

"It would be amazing to be at London and that is my goal, but there is a long time from now until the Games. We will have to just wait and see how it all pans out."

After romping to World Cup gold at Manchester last week, Staff feels he has done enough to qualify for the World Championships in March next year. His next task is to keep himself in shape for selection for the all-important Team Sprint trio to battle for the world title.

He said: "I think I have done enough to qualify, which is the main goal this season. My place in the team is not by any means secure. Now I have got to focus on being in the best shape and work hard in training to keep my place in the squad."



Picture: BRITISHCYCLING.ORG.UK

**RENEWED VIGOR:** Cyclist Jamie Staff's flying start to new season has made him re-evaluate his hopes of defending his Olympic title at the London 2012 Games



**BIG APPLE DASH:** (l-r) Tom Pope, Simon Chivers, Daniel Large and Olly Morgan ran to raise funds for a multiple sclerosis centre

## Quartet in an NY state of mind for marathon effort

FOUR friends are taking a well-earned rest after running the New York Marathon to raise money for the Multiple Sclerosis Resource Centre.

Tom Pope, Simon Chivers, Daniel Large and Olly Morgan, all from Hythe, raised £7,000 for their exploits in one of the world's most iconic road races.

The quartet had a personal connection to the charity, with Tom's mother Jane suffering from a disease linked to multiple sclerosis.

He said: "Being able to run in aid of Multiple Sclerosis Resource Centre is hugely important to us."

### Devastating effects

"I've witnessed first-hand the devastating effects of this neurological illness and have hopefully assisted the MRSC by raising the funds it needs to provide vital services to the 1,000 sufferers in Kent."

Tom led home the former Harvey Grammar School pupils in 3 hours 33 minutes, an hour ahead of first-timer Daniel, who is hoping the total raised continues to grow.

He said: "So far we have been well supported by friends, families, local businesses and sponsors, but we still want to raise more money to make our triumph all the more special."

• *The quartet's total was topped up by several fundraising events before the marathon. To make a donation, log on to <http://www.justgiving.com/newyork-marathon09>.*

# Mos refuse to give up hopes of Premier League return

INVICTA Dynamos have not given up hope of reviving their Premier League status after a seven-year exile in the National League.

The Mos are one of the county's most consistently successful teams, winning silverware in each of the last eight seasons. They typically attract crowds of about 500 to the Gillingham Ice Bowl for home games, figures which would be the envy of many non-league football clubs.

Despite winning their league title for six successive seasons, they are unable to make the step up to the Premier League due to financial constraints – the same reason the club dropped out of the division in 2003.

Martin Rider, head of marketing at the club, said: "We should be higher because we've won the league six or seven years running, that's telling you we're



good enough to compete at the next level. But without the finances we'd end up dropping out the league and then we'd be back to square one.

"It's hard work, I probably send

100 emails out a week looking for sponsors and I might get two answers back saying 'sorry, maybe next season'."

The club estimate they would need to generate around £50,000 per season to be comfortable at the higher level, almost double what it costs to play in the National League.

The biggest source of irritation for head coach Kevin Parrish is he believes his squad could compete at the higher level, even without making additions.

He said: "I don't think there's a big gap in ability. I think if we played Romford Raiders, who are bottom of the Premier League at the moment, we'd beat them."

"It's frustrating but we have to carry on dealing with what we've got. A couple of times we've come close to finalising deals but people have gone back on their promises."



Pictures: IGOR KUPCO

**SUCCESS:** Coach Kevin Parrish (left) has led Invicta Dynamos' to success and crowds of 500 regularly turn up at the Ice Bowl to cheer the Mos on



# 'Let's be having you'

As the recession continues to hit the economy hard, reporter DAVID PRITCHARD examines the effect on the county's football clubs who are suffering in its wake

DECLINING attendances are becoming a major problem for many of the county's clubs, to the extent where some are in a perilous situation and battling to survive.

The table (opposite) shows how individual clubs have been affected over the last three seasons. It shows a significant overall decline in numbers which, more alarmingly, is coming at an increasingly rapid rate with falls much more marked this season compared to last season.

The exceptions can all be explained by success, either promotion to a higher division – as in the case of Gillingham and Cray Wanderers this season – or teams challenging for promotion – such as Ashford Town and Welling United last season.

Attendances generally are always in a constant state of flux, with casual fans drifting from struggling clubs to watch successful ones. Gillingham's experience is typical with their average gate dropping after relegation in 2007/08, before enjoying a surge in support this season following promotion.

## Drops

But significantly, teams such as Bromley, Tonbridge Angels, Chatham and Whitstable, who have stayed in the same division for the last three seasons, have all suffered large drops. Even Dover, promoted in style for the last two campaigns, have been hit with almost a 12 per cent fall this season.

Barry Bright, chairman of the Kent County Football Association and vice-chairman of the Football Association, admits it is a nationwide problem, but does not just attribute it to the recession.

He said: "It's a situation throughout the country. Kent is not immune from the current economic problems, but that's only one factor. People's social habits are changing and a lot work on Saturday afternoons now."

"It's not abnormal compared to the rest of the country. If you look at figures for the FA Cup, FA Trophy and FA Vase it's disappointing. There is a trend, but how you address it, I don't really know."

One club with more to fear than most is

## FEWER FACES IN THE CROWD



TEAM	AVG ATT 2007/08	AVG ATT 2008/09	CHANGE 07/08 – 08/09	AVG ATT 2009/10	CHANGE 2009/10	OVERALL CHANGE
GILLINGHAM	6,077	5,306	-12.7%	6,885	29.8%	13.3%
EBBSFLEET	1,087	1,203	10.7%	1,151	-4.3%	5.9%
DOVER	943	1,293	37.1%	1,141	-11.8%	21.0%
DARTFORD	1,135	1,118	-1.5%	1,135	1.5%	0.0%
WELLING	526	654	24.3%	554	-15.3%	5.3%
BROMLEY	643	523	-18.7%	483	-7.6%	-24.9%
MARGATE	531	523	-1.5%	450	-14.0%	-15.3%
TONBRIDGE	518	503	-2.9%	443	-11.9%	-14.5%
MAIDSTONE	444	388	-12.6%	324	-16.5%	-27.0%
FOLKESTONE	402	271	-32.6%	276	1.8%	-31.3%
CRAY	167	159	-4.8%	208	30.8%	24.6%
RAMSGATE	369	337	-8.7%	195	-42.1%	-47.2%
ASHFORD	253	316	24.9%	175	-44.6%	-30.8%
CHATHAM	175	137	-21.7%	156	-13.9%	-10.9%
WHITSTABLE	249	174	-30.1%	143	-17.8%	-42.6%
SITTINGBOURNE	190	184	-3.2%	140	-23.9%	-26.3%
OVERALL AVERAGE	856	818	-3.4%	866	-8.3%	-12.5%

**FALLING NUMBERS:** Fewer turn out to Bourne Park to watch Sittingbourne (pictured)

Sittingbourne, whose gates are down almost 25 per cent on last season's figures. If all tickets were sold at full price, it means the Ryman South side are recouping £1,120 per home game this season rather than £1,472 a year ago. Taken across the whole league season, it means a drop of more than £7,000.

The club cut their wage bill by a third for this season but are still struggling to make ends meet after co-tenants Maidstone United moved out of Bourne Park this summer.

## Serious

Secretary John Pitts said: "The attendances don't go anywhere near to covering the wage bill. We're at a loss to understand it because the performances have been good. The attendances over the last two or three years have dropped alarmingly."

"If things continue there won't be a Sittingbourne Football Club. The lease is up in 2012, I can't imagine we could extend it with the attendances we have at the moment. That's my personal view, but it's serious for a club going since 1886."

The number of clubs folding is still relatively rare, but both Margate and Folkestone Invicta continue to struggle financially with large unpaid tax bills. Football clubs are often run on wafer-thin margins, so even small changes in gate money can have a big effect.

Whitstable Town are another side suffering. After a spike in numbers following their Kent League title in 2006/07, they have been losing supporters ever since. Oystermen chairman Joe Brownnett believes

promotion has been part of the problem.

He said: "I don't think it's too much to do with the credit crunch. The Ryman League is great for us but when clubs are coming from 100 miles away it doesn't engender the same enthusiasm as playing Herne Bay or Faversham. It's not a disaster at the moment. We're getting about 140, but if it dropped under 100 we would be very concerned."

A lack of local derbies is also an issue higher up the pyramid. Last season Dover Athletic faced rivals Dartford, Maidstone, Margate and Ramsgate in the Ryman Premier, but after going up a level their nearest 'derby' games are Welling and Bromley.

Dover chairman Jim Parmenter believes it is the reason for the dip in average gates this season.

He said: "We expected a fall. In the Blue Square South there aren't any local games so the away support is lower. Our home numbers have held up and even increased slightly."

The picture is less conclusive lower down at Kent League level, where virtually every game is a derby.

The division has undoubtedly been affected by the loss of comparatively well-supported clubs like Ramsgate, Maidstone and Whitstable, who have won promotion in recent years, with the new sides coming in from below much smaller. Despite this, average attendances for league games last month were almost identical to October, 2008.

Kent League chairman Denise Richmond is not overly concerned.

She said: "I don't think the numbers have

## What effort are clubs making to boost support?

AS WELL as more straightforward fundraising techniques, Kent clubs have adopted a variety of tactics in recent months to try and boost attendances.

**SITTINGBOURNE:** One of the worst affected by falling gates, and they have tried to branch out to new fans. The Brickies supporters' club have handed out 5,000 fliers offering a discount for home games in November. Club secretary John Pitts said: "There are a lot of new people in the town but most of them seem to have allegiances with big Premier League teams, it's very difficult to know how to attract them down. We're hoping cheaper tickets will lure people in."

**WHITSTABLE:** They have the second largest drop in attendances in our figures. They have attempted to cope by becoming less reliant on the gate money and diversifying their income streams at the Belmont. Like many clubs they rent out their clubhouse for private functions and have tried hosting new types of events at the ground away from match days. Chairman Joe Brownnett said: "We held a concert a few months ago which was good and we hope to have another one subject to everyone agreeing. We're all trying hard to raise money in other directions and it's been successful up to a point."

The most extreme measure has been to let people in for free. Faced with five home games last December, Dover Athletic's board opted to make their fixture with Tooting & Mitcham free to enter. Kick-off was delayed to accommodate the bumper crowd, with more than 2,700 showing up for a Tuesday night game. Chairman Jim Parmenter said: "It helps loyalty among the fans, but I wouldn't recommend doing it too often – it's a calculation on whether you'll make back the money in the long-term."

fallen off dramatically. People are fickle and support a winning team, drifting away when things aren't going well. It ebbs and flows, numbers probably are falling but I'm not too worried at the moment."

Adrian Clarke, an audit director in the South East with business advisers Baker Tilly, believes that while there are encouraging signs of recovery in the economy, the end is still a way off for struggling clubs.

He said: "The best thing we can say is most commentators are saying the worst is probably over – there's a little less uncertainty than before. It's probably not going to improve until the second quarter next year but things like attendances are based around consumer confidence. That usually lags six to 12 months behind the economy, which means clubs have another tough season next year."



**CONCERN:** Kent FA chief Barry Bright says the fall in crowd numbers is a problem affecting clubs nationwide



# Overseas influence

**STEVE TERVET examines how the impact of foreign rugby players on county clubs has been met with mixed feelings**

PLAYERS from the Southern hemisphere have long been a part of English top-flight rugby and their influence on the sport in Kent is also proving significant.

The county's clubs are far from unified in their views on importing overseas talent, with some actively seeking to introduce foreigners to the club while others maintain a home-grown-only policy.

Folkestone, who play in London 3 South East, recently welcomed five Estonian players after the Baltic side had travelled for a match against the England Deaf team, played at their New Burlington Ground in August.

Taavi Ermel went straight into the first XV to cover at prop and has since made the position his own, while the classy Karmo Lomp has also featured in the side.

Mart Korgesaar, Tanel Akilov and Allan Askilekiri complete the quintet, and alongside New Zealander Joe Hull, who the club found on the internet, the newcomers have all settled and begun to establish themselves.

## First preference

However, John Kidman, Folkestone's overseas liaison officer, said: "The players we've brought in from overseas have simply filled a need – we're not actively seeking players from abroad.

"We don't favour anyone over our local players and the youngsters coming through usually get first preference."

Just 10 miles away, Dover have enjoyed a meteoric rise in recent years and are riding high in London 1 South – two divisions above Folkestone.

Their six promotions in eight seasons have been won by players almost exclusively from the town, and chairman Richard Catt says



**POSITIVE IMPACT:** Tonbridge Juddian Fijian Tomasi Buitiviti and Folkestone's Karmo Lomp, (right) who is from Estonia

their reliance on local talent has been handsomely repaid.

He said: "We have several players who were good enough in earlier years to move up to a higher league but they've stayed with us because they know each other and they work well together.

"Other clubs have five-figure benefactors and they will buy in from abroad, but the local players get displaced and it's not conducive to them coming back in the future."

Also in London 1 South, Tunbridge Wells regularly field South African gap year students who study at Holmewood House School, with Jonte van der Meulen – the latest arrival – joining Sitiveni Turagaiviu in the Wells team after the Fijian centre contacted a number of sides in the South East.

Chairman Roger Clarke said: "The overseas



Picture: PHIL COOPER

players raise the standard for everyone and they can change the course of a game.

"However, the balance has to be right and you can't fill your team with southern hemisphere players."

Tonbridge Juddians name Australian Logan Oliver and Fijian Tomasi Buitiviti among their squad and Darren Grasby, director of rugby, believes their arrival has positively impacted the club at all levels.

He said: "The quality and skill-set the overseas players bring with them has a knock-on effect for the whole club – since winning promotion last year we've added two new senior sides."

## Cumbers set for Gills exit?

LUIS Cumbers' days at Gillingham appear numbered after Mark Stimson admitted the striker's latest loan move could become permanent.

The 21-year-old, who has only just returned from a spell at Ebbsfleet, joined AFC Wimbledon this week on an initial one-month loan deal. Cumbers played for the Dons two seasons ago, helping them to the Ryman Premier title.

Injuries have repeatedly hindered the striker's progress at Priestfield, having started just two games for the first-team. While Cumbers has been prolific at times in non-league he has never been able to translate that form for the Gills.

Manager Mark Stimson remains unconvinced and is prepared to let Cumbers go permanently.

"He's been out on loan and when he comes back he doesn't really come back as though it's his last chance," he said.

"AFC Wimbledon had him once before and liked him, if there's the potential there of a move then that possibly might happen. I spoke to him and said 'you've got to go for it now and give it everything'."

"They say they will but after seeing him play in some games then if that's the best he's got then unfortunately it might not be enough."



## Nurburg nightmare on Bridger's debut

MECHANICAL problems cut short Jay Bridger's GT racing debut at the notorious Nurburgring Nordschleife circuit last weekend.

The 21-year-old driver from Horsmonden, near Tonbridge, was invited by German-based Porsche team Lake Motorsport to take part in a six-hour endurance race at the world's longest track.

After performing well in the Thursday test run, Bridger was looking forward to racing on the 13-mile circuit, but an engine failure on Friday prevented the team from entering the race.

He said: "Obviously it was disappointing not to take part in the race, but I have learnt how to drive the car and the circuit if we come back here next year. It really is a tough track. I am used to driving 2.5-mile circuits and this was more like 25 miles."

Bridger will return single-seater driving later this month after securing a test with a Formula 3 team.

## Gills put a halt to Roo contract talks

GILLINGHAM have put contract talks with teenage midfielder Luke Rooney (pictured) on hold until the New Year.

The 18-year-old only signed professional forms earlier this year, but after an excellent start to the season was offered a new deal last month to keep him at Priestfield until 2013.

Fellow youngster Jack Payne signed the same deal immediately but Rooney, after consulting with his agent, stalled on agreeing terms.

During the negotiations Gills boss Mark Stimson has been worried by the winger's mixed form and decided to suspend the talks to allow Rooney to concentrate on his game.

He said: "At the moment it's been put on hold and we're probably going to look at it in January. They weren't dead keen on the contract and I think it was affecting him a little bit."



## Welling boss to start another Day

THE non-league managerial merry-go-round continued to revolve this week, with Welling United announcing Jamie Day (pictured) as their new boss.



He was unable to officially take over as manager for the Wings' game at Worcester City yesterday, however, as Dartford say the midfielder is still under contract at Princes Park.

The two clubs have been locked in talks regarding compensation for Day, who made more than 130 appearances at Park View Road between 2004 and 2007.

Caretaker boss Lee Protheroe took charge for the Wings again yesterday with both clubs hoping to come up with an amicable end to the saga next week.



## Williams test for Kennard

### EXCLUSIVE

KENT driver Jonathan Kennard is in talks with Formula One teams about a permanent test driver role for 2010, writes Tom Howard.

The single-seater racer, from Tunbridge Wells, has been driving in the relatively new Superleague Formula, but with four new teams set to line-up on the 2010 Formula One grid, he is eyeing a move into motor racing's top series.

New teams Manor F1, Campos F1, USF1 and Lotus are all joining the Formula One grid next season and will all need test drivers.

The 24-year-old is no stranger to testing F1 cars after being asked by the Williams team to drive their 2009 car this time last

year. He has already opened talks with the new F1 teams and is hoping he can secure a test role.

He said: "The talks are going well at the moment with regards to a test seat and I am going to be continuing to negotiate with teams during the winter, and from what I have heard so far it is promising.

"With the new teams coming into Formula One next season it is an excellent opportunity for me to try and secure a test seat."

Although Kennard has left the Superleague series before today's final round of the season in Spain, he is interested in finding a permanent race seat in the growing championship for next year.

The series, which combines football and motor racing, is expected to announce an expanded calendar for 2010, which could see him race at home circuit Brands Hatch.



# CLUBS IN FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL

## Poor attendances threat to game in county

R.I.P.

• To find out how YOUR club is performing and see how they are trying to combat the problem, see page 78

KENT'S leading football clubs are experiencing potentially crippling drops in attendances that could lead to several folding in the near future if the situation doesn't improve.

### EXCLUSIVE

By DAVID PRITCHARD

A KOS Media investigation has revealed that gates at the worst-hit football clubs have almost halved in just two seasons.

Statistics from the last three seasons paint a bleak picture as clubs desperately try to find ways to retain a dwindling supporter base during the economic downturn.

Attendances for this campaign are down more than 12 per cent on average from the 2007-08 season. While clubs on the up like Dover and Dartford have been relatively protected, two-thirds of non-league clubs in the survey, have sustained severe drops.

Barry Bright, chairman of the Kent County Football Association and vice-chairman of the Football Association, is most concerned about what happens if the trend continues and the strain becomes too much for those running the clubs.

He said: "I'm not sure the next generation

are there to take over. Who really is going to take over a club really struggling in this day and age? If you look at these clubs it's the same people for many years making sure the club continues. They are holding everything together.

"Take a club like Sittingbourne; they have two or three people working themselves into the ground to keep a club alive for 140 people coming through the turnstiles.

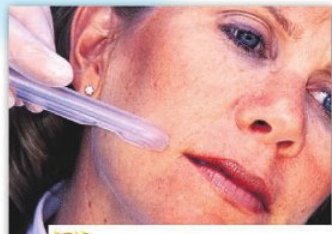
"There must come a point where they say 'is this really worth it?' I think that must go on in a lot of clubs."



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## United striker's spell at Gills a break from the old Roo-team

FEBIAN Brandy may have swapped training with Wayne Rooney and Rio Ferdinand for a spell in League One with Gillingham, but the England under-20 striker is desperate to impress at Priestfield.

The 20-year-old signed a three-month loan deal with Gillingham this week to help boost the club's strike force.

Brandy has yet to get close to first-team action at Old Trafford, having been at the club since the age of nine, and has spent much of his last two seasons on loan in League One, with spells at Swansea and Hereford.

While readily admitting he knows nothing about Gillingham, the diminutive forward sees it as another opportunity to advance his career.

He said: "I never see going anywhere as a step down. You've got to see it as a step-up because you've made that decision to go and improve yourself. It's down to you to improve it."

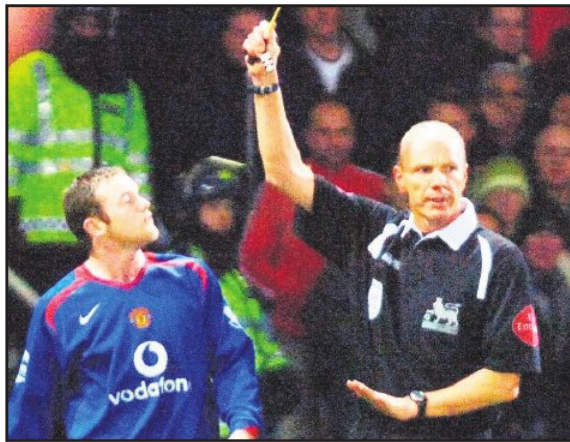
"Obviously at United at this

stage I'm never going to be in front of Rooney, [Dimitar] Berbatov or anyone that's there. Reserve team football is competitive, but at my age you need to be in a league where it's going to be more competitive, so I think a loan spell is the best option for me."

Brandy's most productive spell came at Hereford last season, scoring four goals in 14 starts for the struggling side. His CV also includes scoring the only goal to win the 2007 Champions Youth Cup against Juventus and earlier this season he started every game for England at the under-20 World Cup in Egypt.

Gills manager Mark Stimson, who has long been an admirer of Brandy, is looking forward to working with him.

He said: "To be at a club like that on a professional contract you must have some ability. I've seen it and he has. He's represented England as well, so hopefully he can come here and help us climb the league."



Picture: MANCHESTER UNITED

**BREAKTHROU:** Febian Brandy says playing at Gillingham will give him the opportunity to play first-team football, something he's not getting at Old Trafford with the likes of Wayne Rooney ahead of him

MN EDITION

ISSN 2042-084-6

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